Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Near East & South Asia

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Saudi Arabia

King Fahd's decree on the "Basic Law of Goverment" was transmitted by SPA. Article 68 of the law concerns the creation of a Consultative Council, with the king retaining the right to dissolve and reform the body. The 60-member council's empowering statute was later published by the agency, which also transmitted the king's address to the nation on the move. In his message, King Fahd denied that the move was forced by a "constitutional vacuum," and said that issuing the relevant decrees "formulates a de facto matter which is in operation."

Iraq

The Foreign Ministry rejected last week's Security Council statement on the country's missiles and weapons of mass destruction, saying that the charges failed to take Iraq's views into consideration, INA reported. The ministry's statement added that a "political and technical delegation" will visit New York soon to explain the country's position. Baghdad radio and television broadcast an interview with Tariq 'Aziz on the background of the charges, telling the radio that the "majority" of the UN allegations are false, and that the only resolutions that have not been implemented are "not measures that Iraq refused to implement but rather measures that require time."

Arab-Israeli Talks

An Israeli proposal for "interim self-government arrangements" during the "transitional period", an "unofficial translation" of which was published by DAVAR, was given to the Palestinians on 25 February. Two days later the Palestinians termed the plan "unacceptable," according to their rebuttal, published by HA'ARETZ. Israel "will not object to another round of talks before the (Israeli) elections," according to sources cited by the paper, which nevertheless cited officials in Jerusalem as expressing "annoyance" at the U.S. stand on the venue issue, and saying that "the possibility that this round will be the last before the Knesset elections is not ruled out."

Israel

The Likud Central Committee ranked its members for the party's list in the upcoming Knesset elections. Foreign Minister Levi suffered a "resounding blow" by coming in 18th out of 50, Jerusalem radio reported. Later, however, Levi was elected to third place in the first group of seven. In a speech after the later vote, Levi accused Shamir and followers of participating in a "plot" against him, Jerusalem television disclosed. Levi's supporters won the battle for the second septile, the radio added. Opposition leader Rabin promised that if elected, "within six to nine months after I form a government we will reach an agreement with the Palestinians in the territories on the establishment of autonomy," the radio continued. Elsewhere, there were no casualties in two incidents of firing at IDF soldiers from outside the security zone, Army radio reported. The IDF subsequently warned the Lebanese Army about such incidents, HA'ARETZ added.

Libya

The judge in charge of the Lockerbie investigation is seeking to be removed from the case, according to JANA, which reported the judge's nine-point statement to that effect. The first cause given by the magistrate was "lack of cooperation" by U.S., UK, and Scottish authorities. A five-point Foreign Liaison Bureau statement protesting a U.S. "media campaign" on Lockerbie was transmitted by the agency, whose political editor wrote a commentary denying a WASHINGTON POST report about the existence of "terrorist training camps" in the country.

Palestinian Affairs

A PLO Executive Committee statement on the collapse of a Jerusalem coffee shop in which 24 people were killed was broadcast by Algiers Voice of Palestine. In the statement, the PLO noted the Israeli Kakh movement's claim of responsibility for the incident, and said it would continue its investigation using its "special methods."

Lebanon

Hizballah's Hasan Nasrallah gave a lengthy interview to the clandestine Voice of the People, in which he discussed the Arab-Israeli talks, Iranian influence on his group, relations with Lebanese authorities, and the taking of hostages, among other issues. Nasrallah had earlier visited Tehran and conferred with the Iranian foreign minister, Tehran radio reported.

Algeria

In an interview with a French weekly and reported by APS, Mohamed Boudiaf warned of an "Islamic dictatorship" in the country, and said that he does not wish to remain in power. The government's action plan to revitalize the economy and for other problems facing the nation was transmitted by the agency.

Morocco

The French foreign minister concluded his visit, MAP reported. King Hassan told him that while Morocco had supported the UN resolution on Lockerbie, "his country would not vote for any sanctions against Tripoli," Paris international radio added.

Afghanistan

More than 20 Kabul residents were killed over the weekend by surface-to-surface missile fire, Kabul radio reported. The radio broadcast a Foreign Ministry statement denying involvement in the 1989 crash of a Pakistani civilian airliner.

India

The finance minister presented the national budget, a plank of which mandates partial convertibility of the rupee, Delhi radio reported. A 7 percent increase in defense outlays was also proposed, the radio continued.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel Presents Document on Transitional Period

TA0103092592 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Mar 92 p 3

[By Dan Avidan; "unofficial translation" of Israeli document presented to Palestinian delegation in Washington on 25 February]

[Text]

Ideas on Peaceful Coexistence in the Territories During the Transitional Period

A. General Concept

1. Transitional Arrangements

a. The idea of transitional arrangements for the Arab-Palestinian residents for a five-year period stems from basic assumptions, according to which:

—The wounds that are the result of the lengthy and bitter Arab- Israeli conflict need time to heal, and confidence must be built gradually.

—The deep gap between the positions of the parties cannot be bridged in a single step. The gap can only be closed through a process of building coexistence—through transitional arrangements—which will be followed by agreements on the final status.

b. The transitional period must allow:

—An examination of the arrangements agreed upon for this period, including the fulfillment of all obligations.

—An adjustment to the reality of life in coexistence on the same land.

—The construction of mutual confidence.

c. The transitional arrangements should create a change in the reality of life of the Palestinian Arabs in the territories; the change should occur according to the following guidelines:

—It must not predetermine the results of the negotiations on the final status.

—It should apply to people, not to the status of the territories.

—It must be based on adherence to agreements, as agreed prior to their implementation.

—No unilateral changes could be made in the terms of the arrangements.

2. Coexistence

a. The transitional arrangements are based on the agreed-upon terms of the framework, which determine an agreement regarding:

—The establishment of interim self-government arrangements [ISGA] for the Palestinian Arab residents of the territories;

—The preservation of the existing links between Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and Israel;

—Arrangements for cooperation and coordination between the ISGA administrative authorities and Israel;

—The preservation of the traditional links between the Palestinian Arab residents and Jordan.

b. During the transitional period:

—In the framework of ISGA, the Palestinian Arabs will be given the opportunity to conduct their affairs in most fields according to the agreement;

—Certain authorities and areas of responsibility will be left in the hands of Israel;

—Israelis will continue living in and settling the territories, as is their right;

—Israel will have the exclusive responsibility for all aspects of security—external, internal, and public order.

B. ISGA

1. Modalities [preceeding word in English]

The authorities of the transitional arrangements for self-government, which will be agreed on in advance by the parties involved, will be established in an agreed-upon manner.

2. Structure and Procedure

a. The ISGA authorities will have a functional-administrative nature.

b. The basic functional structure of ISGA will be determined during the negotiations.

3. Legal Authority

The legal authority of ISGA will apply only to the Palestinian Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

4. Authority and Fields of Responsibility

a. During the negotiations, Israel will suggest negotiations on the delegation of power and authority to the appropriate ISGA authorities in the following fields (subject to an agreement on the concept and the general structure, on the arrangements for coordination and cooperation, and on aspects regarding Jordan):

1) Legal conduct—supervision of the administrative body of the local courts in the territories; treatment of issues pertaining to the system of prosecution and the registration of companies and partnerships.

2) Administrative personnel issues—appointments, working conditions, and terms (at present, the public service of the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, in the framework of the Civil Administration of the military government, employs some 22,000 people).

3) Agriculture—various fields of agriculture such as fishing, and so on.

4) Education and culture—operation of the school system in the territories, from kindergarten to universities; supervision of cultural, artistic, and sports activities.

5) Budget and taxation—allocating budgets for administrative activities and fund distribution; direct taxation.

6) Health—management of hospitals and clinics; operation of sanitation and other services pertaining to public health.

7) Industry, trade, and tourism—development of industry, workshops, trade, and tourism services.

8) Labor and social welfare- management of welfare, employment, and labor services.

9) Local police—employment of a local police force for criminal cases, and maintenance of prisons for criminal convicts who have been tried in local courts in the territories.

10) Transportation and local communication - maintenance and coordination of local transportation and postal services.

11) Municipal issues—matters regarding Arab settlements and the efficient operation of municipal water supply, housing, sewage, and electricity.

12) Religious affairs—supply and maintenance of religious services to all religious communities of the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Authority and responsibility in the agreed-upon framework will be delegated to the administrative authorities gradually, as determined in the negotiations.

b. Cooperation and Coordination

1) An agreement will be made regarding the arrangements that will guarantee cooperation and coordination between the authorities and Israel on certain aspects, for the mutual benefit of both parties.

2) The ISGA authorities will, therefore, employ their authority in the fields of their expertise in three ways:

—As required in the fields determined for their agreed-upon authority.

—In coordination with Israel—in certain fields; cooperation means joint planning.

—In cooperation with Israel—in certain fields; cooperation means joint operation beginning with the highest level of planning down to the lowest level of implementation.

5. Additional Authority and Responsibilities

a. Authority and responsibilities not delegated to the agreed- upon ISGA authorities will remain in the hands of Israel, as it is the source of authority.

ISGA authority and responsibilities will not apply to Israeli security forces or Israeli citizens in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, nor will they apply to the Palestinian Arab residents of Jerusalem, Israel's capital, which is not part of the territories.

b. Security

—Israel will be exclusively responsible for the interior and external security and for public order.

—The relevant Israeli authorities and the local police force will cooperate on the issue of public order.

c. Legislation

—The rules and decrees in force in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, including the powers they provide, will remain valid.

—The authority to determine regulations in the fields of activity of the ISGA authorities will be determined in an agreement, subject to coordination and cooperation with Israel, as stated above.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 1 March on page A5 carries a report by Ori Nir on this document, adding that the "this is the first document Israel has presented to the Palestinians since the peace talks started. It was neither written on official letterhead of the State of Israel nor was it presented to the Palestinians as a binding Israeli plan for autonomy arrangements."]

Palestinians: 'Unacceptable'

TA0103095892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Mar 92 p A5

[Unattributed report: "Document"; quotation marks as published]

[Text] In response to the Israeli autonomy document submitted to the Palestinian delegation on 25 February, the Palestinian delegation on 27 February handed the Israeli negotiating team the memorandum detailed below. Palestinian sources noted that the memorandum was not submitted as a document; it was read out by Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation.

"Following our exchanges of views yesterday, here are some of my responses to your personal memorandum, in which you referred to your ideas with regard to the talks and with regard to coexistence.

I would like to emphasize that in its present shape, your memorandum and the enclosed paper, which includes 'ideas for peaceful coexistence in the territories during the interim period,' reflect your personal stand only. In the nature of things, we will be able to hold a discussion if the Israeli delegation, acting on behalf of the Israeli Government, submits an official proposal dealing with self-government arrangements during the transitional stage, which are the object of our peace talks.

As the ideas included in your memorandum were submitted, they are unacceptable either from the point of view of the way they were submitted or of their contents. Specifically, I will note the following points:

1) Every aspect of you memorandum represents a draft for a de facto annexation, in all but name, and in that, you bestow an official seal of legitimacy on the occupation of the occupied territories and perpetuate the Palestinians' deprivation of (political) rights on their own land.

2) Your memorandum stands in contravention of three fundamental ideas explicitly mentioned in the letter of invitation:

a. It contravenes the impermanent nature of the self-government arrangements, attempting to predetermine the final status;

b. It systematically sabotages the foundation of self-government by practically abrogating the Palestinian role and depriving them of the right either to enact any kind of genuine authority or to express political goals;

c. It refrains from specifically addressing the issue of (self- government) arrangements in that it refuses to move on from the Palestinians' present situation in the occupied territories. [sentence as published]

3) The following are a few of our additional objections to your memorandum:

a. It ignores the need to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the Fourth Geneva Convention, as well as the Hague Convention, particularly with regard to the principle of territories for peace and the protection of human rights.

b. It contravenes your legal commitment to adhere fully to the 1978 Camp David accords, which you cosigned, especially those parts of the accords that pertain to the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories, the recognition of Palestinian rights, and the establishment of a self-government [memshala 'atzmit] (or self-rule; the English source says 'self government'). [preceding two words in English]

c. It completely violates international law, UN Security Council resolutions, and the consensus in the international community in that it determines that 'the arrangements will have no territorial validity...and they will not include the residents of Jerusalem.'

d. In declaring that the arrangements 'will not be enforced on the Israeli population in the territories' and in creating double standards and a double legal system, your memorandum is aimed at achieving nothing but apartheid.

e. Your memorandum refers to self-government arrangements for a transitional period as if these were no more than the delegation of Israeli authority to Palestinians, although the source of authority can only derive from the wish of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories as will be expressed in free general elections in which they will elect its representatives.

f. Your insistence on Israel's being the source of authority in the occupied territories is tantamount to declaring an annexation and imposing Israeli sovereignty on the occupied territories, which constitutes an absolute violation of the spirit and the contents of the letter of invitation and affects the permanent status (in the territories) in advance.

g. The attempt to represent security as Israel's special and permanent prerogative violates the spirit and contents of the negotiations in that it stands in contravention of their temporary nature. This cannot be allowed to hurt the Palestinians' basic rights.

h. Being interested in ensuring that our talks promote the 'spirit of recovery, rehabilitation, and the building of mutual trust,' I would like to ask you to refrain in the future from introducing your ideological predilections into the debates by means such as the reference to 'Judaea and Samaria,' instead of 'the West Bank' or 'the occupied territories,' as they are termed in every international resolution and statement. Furthermore, please remember that we are 'the Palestinian people,' or 'the Palestinians,' and not just 'the Arab residents of the territories.' I am sure you do not want us to stoop to similarly childish and demeaning attitude.

4) Despite our disagreements, we must find ways to make progress to reach a just and durable peace. On the basis of our mutual interest in doing so, I understand that:

a. To promote a successful outcome of the peace negotiations, the Government of Israel must stop its sweeping assault on Palestinian land and resources through its settlement plans. In this context, I am happy to note that you have realized at last that the issue of settlements is an indispensable precondition for our discussion of interim self-government arrangements [ISGA], as your memorandum speaks of 'the Israelis' (right)...to live and settle in the territories' as part of the basis of the transitional arrangements.

b. In view of the well-known past of violence on the part of the State of Israel and of armed attacks by settlers against Palestinians, the ISGA must promote an atmosphere of trust, thereby tangibly changing the conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. This should be done by affording them (the Palestinians)

protection from trespassers and by giving them the means to assume authority and full responsibility for their lives, which is both a vital necessity and a man's natural right.

c. The ISGA are designed to ensure peaceful and orderly transfer of full authority to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and to lay the foundations for continued negotiations on the permanent status of the occupied territories. It is on this basis that we should conduct negotiations, and I suggest therefore that we go back and seriously discuss the ISGA proposal submitted to you by the Palestinian delegation on 14 January 1992."

Arab Negotiators Assess Atmospherics

JN2802211692 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Interview with Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, by Murid Hammad in Washington on 28 February—recorded]

[Text] [Hammad] I would like to ask both of you about the conduct of the negotiations. A lot of people are listening to reports now that: Okay, the Israelis and the Jordanians, and the Israelis and the Palestinians, and the Syrians and the Lebanese are meeting. No agreement. What about inside the room? What's the conduct of negotiations like? What is happening inside?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Well, I don't think in terms of, I mean you have to judge what is going on in terms of substance rather than in terms of appearances. Whereas the atmosphere inside the negotiating room between the Jordanians and the Israelis might be cordial, but that should not really divert from the fact that no real progress has been made, and that there is really little common ground that joins us. And this is precisely because there is basic difference in concept to the peace process. We want to tackle directly the issues that divide us and resolve these issues before we can talk about a comprehensive peace settlement. The Israelis want to circumvent talking about these issues and move directly into normalization without giving anything in return. And it is a basic difference in philosophy, and as such, there has been no progress in these talks.

[Hammad] Dr. Hanan, if also had within the Israeli-Palestinian track, if had accusations and counteraccusations and some. [sentence as heard] I understand, I was told the other day, there were some racist remarks in the meeting itself.

['Ashrawi] That's right. I can say very frankly the atmosphere in the negotiating room is not cordial. It's quite tense, it's quite charged, and unfortunately, the Israelis have brought into the negotiating room the mentality of the occupier, and they are trying to use the politics of domination on negotiations through domination and through racism in order to try to impose their will on the Palestinians. Now, they have failed to do that after 25 years of occupation, and they are going to fail in their politics of domination in the negotiating room. At first, the meetings were, in a sense, extremely tense and therefore, people were interjecting, objecting, refusing to deal with issues and so on. And there was a decision made that there will be a very formal division of talk and of time, in order to avoid all these open clashes and confrontations, and this was made by having each speak for half an hour, for an instance, and make a presentation. And it was in this where we avoided open clashes. But at the same time, it is extremely formal and structured. There is nothing that can really be called personal or a real understanding of issues because Palestinians present workable proposals, the Israelis absolutely rejected from the beginning, and then they start giving ideological answers and absolutist answers and slogans that really have nothing to do with the purpose of negotiations.

Palestinian Head Seeks Larger U.S. Role

NC2902191492 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Feb 92

["Exclusive" interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington peace talks, by unidentified MBC correspondent; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-Shafi] We do not believe that the sponsor, specifically the U.S. Government, should be satisfied with playing the role of an assistant in these talks. It needs to do more because of the lack of parity between the Israeli and the Palestinian sides.

[Correspondent] Do you accept the American alternative of allowing Israel to build 6,000 housing units while cutting Israel's loan guarantees?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Of course we will not accept that. We believe that such an alternative legitimizes the settlement policy and destroys the peace process completely.

[Correspondent] Will you allow Yitzhaq Shamir to exploit for his own election purposes the fact that the talks are continuing?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We need to be careful about how we handle the negotiations. This is the more important aspect. If Shamir can exploit this for his election campaign....[changes thought] Strategically, we do not see a big difference between Shamir and Rabin.

[Correspondent] When the Arab negotiator says that this round of talks is decisive, what does he mean exactly?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In this round, we have managed to say that we have reached a deadlock with the Israeli side. It has become clear that there is no agreement on how we view the progress of the negotiations. When this round of

talks ends, a comprehensive and in-depth evaluation process should take place so that the appropriate decision can be made.

[Correspondent] If a decision to suspend the talks is made, will it be a Palestinian decision or an Arab decision taken in coordination with the rest of the Arab negotiators?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The major point about this coordination is that no agreement should be signed between any Arab side and Israel at the expense of other Arab sides. We basically are talking about the Palestine question. That is the core of the matter.

Lebanese Delegate on Israeli Proposal

'No Scope for Optimism'

NC0203083992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Telephone report from Nuhad al-Hayik, Voice of Lebanon correspondent in Washington—recorded]

[Excerpts] On the eve of the resumption of the fourth round of bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel in Washington following the weekend, Arab delegation heads were unanimous that the talks are experiencing a crisis. Some Arab delegations expected the sponsor of the peace process to be called on to intervene.

The delegation heads held a coordination meeting at the (?Grand) hotel Sunday evening. After the meeting, Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, said that there is no scope for optimism after the first part of this round of talks. He added: But we must continue to try. [passage omitted]

Regarding the practical proposals the Israeli side presented to the Lebanese, Shammas said: Ostensibly, these proposals are procedural, but they touch on substance. He added that the Lebanese side rejected these proposals but discussed them for two hours. They represented a revised version of a proposal the Israeli side had presented earlier.

He declared that the Lebanese side presented a timetable for the implementation of Resolution 425, providing that Lebanon will discuss Israel's security concerns after Israel commits itself to the implementation of Resolution 425. Shammas said that the Lebanese delegation responded to the Israeli proposal with another practical proposal, namely:

[Begin Shammas recording] A practical way to achieve the goals of the peace process though legal or other mechanisms is for Israel to accept publicly and commit itself to the implementation of Resolution 425. Israel will then immediately enter into a practical and real discussion with us to agree on a timetable. During the discussion of the phases of this timetable, the Israeli side, after openly and (?clearly) committing itself to it, can present its security concerns to us. We will then discuss and consider the seriousness of these concerns, deal with them and, if we are convinced of these concerns, we will commit ourselves to what we can. [end recording]

Shammas criticized the Israeli side for divulging what took place during the talks and hoped that it will avoid this method so the talks may bear fruit. [passage omitted]

Syrian Presence in Lebanon 'No Danger'

NC0203113092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the bilateral negotiations, has declared that there is no scope for optimism following the first part of the round of Washington negotiations. He said that the gap is still wide in the bilateral negotiations. He added that he asked the Israelis to accept the implementation of Resolution 425, to pledge to withdraw completely from Lebanon, and agree on a timetable for the Israeli withdrawal, through which Israel can present its security concerns. [passage omitted]

Shammas said that the Syrian presence in Lebanon poses no danger to Israel, but is required to help the Lebanese Government in establishing its sovereignty over all Lebanese territory. He said that he is confident Syria will honor its pledge to redeploy its forces in the al-Biqa'.

Shammas was talking to reporters after the meeting held by the heads of the Arab delegations t.. the Washington negotiations at the Syrian delegation's residence.

Israel: No Objection to Talks Before Election

TA0103123292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Mar 92 p A5

["Exclusive" report by Ori Nir and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Washington—The U.S. Administration has advised the Arab delegations to Washington that it expects at least one more round of talks before the Israeli elections at the end of June. The administration suggested that the talks be held at the beginning or end of April. Arab diplomatic sources in Washington said that the Arab delegations, which are afraid the Israeli delegation will employ stalling tactics, disagree on the usefulness of another round so close to the elections in Israel.

Israeli sources in Washington said yesterday that Israel will not object to another round of talks before the elections, but that these should be held in the Middle East or nearby. The Arab delegations, however, are apparently insisting that the fourth round also be held in Washington. The talks, which recessed for the weekend, will resume tomorrow and adjourn on Wednesday.

Political sources in Jerusalem said that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who believes that the peace process should be the main message of the Likud's election

campaign, would like to be able to show progress in the peace talks just before the Knesset elections. On the eve of the Israeli delegation's departure for Washington, Shamir apparently made his instructions to the delegation more flexible, allowing Elyaqim Rubinstein to present a quasi-autonomy model.

It has been learned that the head of the Lebanese delegation has stressed in a talk with Israeli officials that Lebanon does not depend on Syria, adding that Lebanon is ready to reach a peace arrangement with Israel provided the latter undertakes in advance that this arrangement will include the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all sovereign Lebanese territory. [passage omitted]

Bid for More Talks May be Rejected

TA0203084592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Mar 92 p A4

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Israel may reject the U.S. invitation to another round of talks if it is scheduled for Washington. In Jerusalem, political elements expressed annoyance yesterday with the U.S. position in the dispute over venue.

They asserted that the State Department has adopted an indulgent attitude toward the Arab delegations' repeated rejection of its demand to present a list of preferred locations in either Europe or the Middle East.

According to them, Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, did broach the issue with the heads of the Arab delegations during the current round of talks in the U.S. capital, but he did not present a firm demand for the required list.

Israel, which handed the United States a list of 10 locations on the eve of its delegation's departure for Washington, was the only country that responded to the request. A senior political element said yesterday that, so far, Israel has acted with tolerance in this respect and that although the Cabinet had decided on two rounds of Washington talks at most, the Israeli delegations reported to Washington for a third round, too.

He noted that in view of the forbearance the United States has shown the Arabs, the Cabinet will find it difficult to approve another round in Washington. In addition, Jerusalem is annoyed with the attitude the State Department took toward Israel's proposal that the current round of talks start on 17 February. Jerusalem officials claimed that the Americans preferred to launch the talks on 24 February, the date of Secretary of State James Baker's aggressive testimony about the link between loan guarantees and settlement.

Therefore, the possibility that this round will be the last before the Knesset elections is not ruled out. The prevailing feeling in Jerusalem is that the administration is not equally firm with the Palestinians and the other Arab delegations, from which it receives daily complaints against Israel.

Jerusalem claims that the Arabs have rejected all the Israeli delegation's appeals to discuss the venue and date of the next round of talks and have announced their determination to hold them in Washington.

Heads of Arab Delegations Comment on Talks

JN0203115792 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Washington, 2 Mar (SANA)—The Arab delegations to the Washington peace talks met at the Syrian delegation's place of residence yesterday evening to assess the first week of the fourth round of talks with the Israeli side. The conferees expressed the opinion that the impasse reached in talks between all the Arab delegations and the Israeli side requires that a precise assessment be made at the end of this round in order to decide future steps.

Following the meeting, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said it is clear from the Arab delegations' talks with the Israeli side that the latter has come to Washington not for the sake of making progress or peace, but with the aim of exploiting the peace process for other purposes in order to continue the expansionist settlement policy and pretend to work for peace by sitting with the Arabs at the negotiating table. Replying to a question, he said the same gloomy atmosphere prevails the talks between any Arab delegation and the Israeli side.

He added that the problem is that Israel does not recognize what international legitimacy has unanimously approved on the need to withdraw from the territories it occupied through aggression. Moreover, he said, it is always trying to misinterpret Resolution 242 after the United Nations and the cosponsors of the peace process have unanimously endorsed its interpretation and called for talks on the basis of the land-for-peace formula.

Al-'Allaf said the Arab delegations are in agreement that if the current round of talks ends just like the previous ones without any progress, the United States, in its capacity as one of the sponsors of the conference, will be demanded to honor its promise and play its role in pushing forward the peace process.

Responding to a reporter's question, al-'Allaf said all Arab parties insist on a comprehensive settlement; they do not agree to a unilateral solution, but a comprehensive one.

Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, said following the meeting that the Arab parties are seriously concerned about reaching a just and comprehensive settlement and that continuous coordination among the Arab delegations is based on the principle that the fixed

aim of the peace conference cannot be attained except through agreement on the actual elements of a just and comprehensive peace.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, said yesterday's meeting was aimed at coordinating stands in light of the impasse facing the talks and at considering future steps to encounter this impasse.

The fourth round of talks is scheduled to resume today, Monday, following a three-day suspension.

Jordanian on Coordination With Palestinians

JN2802202592 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Salim 'Ali Dhiyab report from Washington; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Excerpts] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, received at his place of residence in Washington Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations. Discussions dealt with the current negotiations in Washington between the Arab parties and Israel, coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian positions, and consultation on various related matters.

This meeting was part of the continuing meetings to consolidate positions and to discuss ways to support these positions.

[Al-Majali] "In fact, as I have said more than once, Arab coordination is as good as one might hope. This has been clear even before the outbreak of events. As for our Palestinian brothers, we are on their side and stand with them. Coordination is in its best shape and I deem our coordination as excellent, as if we were one delegation. When we speak within the Jordanian track, most of the talk revolves around the Palestine question because it is the basic root of the whole peace subject. Therefore, the coordination is at its best level, and is conducted daily and at every moment, particularly in the presence of our Palestinian brothers with us in the Jordanian delegation, and Jordanian brothers in the Palestinian delegation. This is solid evidence of the level of full coordination."

['Abd-al-Shafi] "We attach great attention to coordination and we are eager to maintain it. Praise be to God, current coordination is good, and we are eager to repeat the meeting and to be in full agreement and coordination." [passage omitted]

In another development, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations, met with Edward Djerejian, assistant U.S. secretary of state, at the U.S. State Department .

[Al-Majali] "The meeting with the U.S. official was held to brief them and to give them an idea about what is going on at the talks on our side, and to explain the obstacles and on which points progress has been realized. At the same time, we discussed the issues that concern our two countries." [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Aide Rejects Israeli 'Transitional' Period

NC2902080892 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser Nabil Sha'th has said that Israel's proposal for a transitional period in the occupied territories is not a real plan and is totally unacceptable. He said it is designed to perpetuate racism, settlement activity, and occupation. In an interview with the newspaper AL-HAYAH, Sha'th stated he believes that the United States will not intervene in the talks because their battle is over loans and halting the settlement program. He remarked: I do not think they will engage in more than one battle with the Israelis.

Sha'th pointed out that the United States has demonstrated its earnestness toward the peace process, which comes at the top of its priorities, ahead of issues connected with the former Soviet Union and East Europe. He noted, however, that he does not expect any progress to be made in the current round of talks.

'Arafat Discusses Palestinian Role in Peace Talks

PM2802152692 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Feb 92 p 3

[Mu'awiyah Yasin and 'Umar Muhammad al-Hasan report: " 'Arafat Says: We Were Forced To Participate in Negotiations; Our Camps in Sudan Are for Refugees Only"]

[Text] Khartoum—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has warned that the world is approaching "a monopolar dictatorship"—a reference to the new international order.

He said that he agreed with Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir to work together to heal the rift in Arab ranks resulting from the Gulf crisis. The Sudanese president seems to have succeeded in persuading 'Arafat to end the estrangement that occurred between Sudan and the PLO following recent accusations against Sudan of allying with the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

In a special session held by the Transitional National Assembly (parliament) in Omdurman the day before yesterday and attended by Lt. Gen. al-Bashir, 'Arafat said that the Arab nation is witnessing a crucial turning point. He said that he felt compelled to participate in the peace process "because of the balances of power which forced us to go to Washington, Madrid, and Moscow.

He said that the Palestinian intifadah, which has entered its fifth year, will continue in one wave after another

until the land is liberated. He added that its continuation "is not my decision. It is the decision of Palestine's children, women, and fighters." 'Arafat asked about the reasons for the recent Israel attack in southern Lebanon. He said: "Where is the Security Council's resolution of condemnation? This is the justice of the new international order: to use double standards." He warned that Israel has diverted the waters of Lebanon's al-Hasbani, al-Wazzani, and al-Litani Rivers and said: "The enemy is coming not on a vacation but to establish Greater Israel."

The Palestinian president defended his decision to participate in the present Washington talks despite the fact that the current Israeli Government is an interim one and despite the start of the U.S. presidential election campaign. He said: "We went to Washington in order not to register our absence and so that they [not further identified] will not commit a crime on our territory."

He said that the United States "wants to impose its new international order on the entire Third World according to its own concepts, and then try to impose its monopolarity on Europe, Japan, and China." He wondered: "At whose expense will this be done? Will we pay the price?"

'Arafat arrived in Sudan last Monday but bad weather forced his plane to land at Port Sudan. It was decided that he would attend the opening of the Sudanese parliament. The day before yesterday he had a meeting with Lt. Gen. al-Bashir at the latter's office. He said that it covered Arab and Islamic issues.

AL-HAYAH has learned that he had another secret meeting with his Sudanese host at his residence. 'Arafat said that he visited Palestinian refugee camps in east Sudan and noted that these are refugee camps, "not terrorist camps, because they were set up in Sudan under instructions from the Arab League."

DFLP Claims Responsibility for Janin Attack

JN2902152492 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has claimed responsibility for yesterday's attack against an Israeli military building in Janin, in the occupied West Bank.

According to Israeli military sources no casualties resulted from this operation.

PLO Statement on Jerusalem Cafe Casualties

LD0203101892 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Mar 92

["Text" of statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee on 1 March; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee has received with the utmost grief and sorrow the news of the grave catastrophe that has befallen our people in Jerusalem and the sons of our Palestinian people in general, and which led to the martyrdom of 24 people at the time of the preparation of this statement.

Upon receiving the report the PLO Executive Committee rushed to form an emergency committee to follow up on the catastrophe, its dimensions, and its developments, particularly in view of the responsibility for the catastrophe claimed and disseminated in all circles by the racist Jewish terrorist organization Kakh.

The committee believes the collapse of the al-Rawdah coffee shop, which is the largest coffee shop in the al-Nuzhah quarter of the Old City, and this frightful number of martyrs and victims is a devastating catastrophe that escalates the sufferings of our Palestinian people to the highest limit.

The committee came to the conclusion that the Kakh movement's claim of responsibility could be the most likely cause, for the hysteria of storming houses and the fever of arrests and terrorism by occupation authorities against various areas—particularly Janin, Tulkarm, and Qalqiliyah—have reached unbearable dimensions. The army and the police have been closing these areas and spreading within them terrorism, arrests, beating, and torture amid complete secrecy in the most abominable continuous reaction since the incident 10 days ago in which three Israeli soldiers were killed and a fourth seriously injured after having been stripped of their arms.

The committee announced that in the process of its scrutiny and study of the dimensions of the incident, it paused at a new massacre carried out by Israeli military authorities when they unleashed the special forces last night and this morning against Shaburah camp in Rafah, leading to the martyrdom of three Palestinian citizens who were executed by the bullets of these forces. Over 20 other Palestinians were injured by bullets from these official terrorist forces.

The committee has brought together all the information received about the new massacre at Shaburah along with the reports of the closure of areas of Janin, Tulkarm, and Qalqiliyah; the secret acts of terrorism against the people, and the Kakh movement's claim of responsibility for the Jerusalem coffee shop incident, in an effort to verify the existence of any link among all of them and to ascertain their impact on the fourth round of bilateral talks in Washington and on the Israeli side's embarkation on a maneuver of treachery and the putting forward of unrealistic autonomous proposals that give no hope for lifting the occupation from the occupied territories.

The committee will continue its work, concentrating on the responsibility of the Kakh movement as published on page 2 of YEDI'OT AHARONOT, one of the most widely circulated Jewish newspapers, and on the terrorist practices by official Israeli circles against the camps of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

As it follows in great detail the developments of the devastating calamity that has brought a great deal of agony and sorrow to Jerusalem, the committee conveys its warmest condolences to the families of the martyrs and sons of the holy city and our Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the diaspora and declares today and tomorrow, Sunday and Monday, as days of public mourning for the souls of the innocent martyrs.

It also declares that it will continue its investigation through its special methods to find the real cause of the catastrophe.

Algeria

FIS Threatens To Unleash Supporters If Dissolved

NC0203084792 Paris AFP in English 0831 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Algiers, March 2 (AFP)—Algeria's fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] warned Monday that it would unleash its supporters "to fight oppression" if the government goes ahead with moves to dissolve the party.

The warning came as an Algiers court was due to rule on a government attempt to ban the FIS, which was robbed of virtually certain victory in legislative elections that were cancelled when the Army seized power in January.

An FIS communique received by AFP Monday said that if the party were dissolved, the FIS would no longer seek to restrain its supporters and would "let the people express its views."

The people will "find other ways to fight oppression and realise its ambitions," the communique said.

Press reports said that the Algiers administrative court handling the Interior Ministry request to ban the FIS might not be able to issue a ruling until Wednesday.

Lawyers for the FIS said the government's request contained technical errors and that as it was a precedent-setting case, the debates could take longer than usual.

"The dissolution of the FIS will not mean the tyrants will be rid of what it stands for because the reasons for its existence and its source of inspiration,—that is Islam, the people and history— cannot be dissolved," said the communique which was dated March 1.

The communique was signed by Abderrazak Radjam, the FIS information chief who went into hiding three weeks ago.

Boudiaf Notes Threat From 'Islamic Dictatorship'

LD2902093592 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Paris, 29 Feb (APS)—In an interview with the French weekly VSD published on 27 February, Higher State Council Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf stated that Algeria has been saved from a major threat in the form of an Islamic dictatorship. He added that it was not possible to have a dialogue with people who try to avoid debate by saying that "this is what God has stated," while that is not the case with Islam.

Boudiaf refused, however, to be seen as "a man sent from heaven," and he affirmed that he does not wish to remain in power. He added that he has accepted this mission and is trying to carry it out as best he can by making it a priority to restore the state's prestige and to create "the necessary conditions for handing the keys of power" to the youth. He affirmed that this sector of society is his main preoccupation.

In this context, Boudiaf pointed out that young people must understand that the era of ideology and socialism has passed and that he is calling on them to join in actual achievement.

As for the Algerian Army, Boudiaf noted that this is no longer the army of 1962 and that it has refused to seize power. He added that the Army's responsible officers were republican officers and that he would leave if the Army tried to seize power at any time.

On the matter of the arrested people and the circumstances of their arrests, the Higher State Council chairman affirmed that "these were children of our country, and most of them have fallen into the trap of straying. No violence will be used against them."

He added: "There may have been some instances of military excesses, and I will personally look into them. But I assure you that as long as I am the head of the Higher State Council everything will be done within the framework of the law. I say loud and clear that there will be no torture."

In conclusion, Boudiaf expressed his confidence in Algeria which, he said, has turned its back on the one-party system. He added that the market economy and partisan pluralism can proceed normally and prove their effectiveness as soon as complete stability is restored.

Government Issues 'Plan of Action'

Plan for 'Economic Relaunch'

LD2902135992 Algiers APS in English 1048 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Algiers, 29/02/92 (APS)—The government plan of action takes in charge priorities of the economic relaunch through "concrete actions" of supply, investment and meeting of social needs aiming at "giving back confidence and hope to citizens ".

If the financial problems that the country is living through, constitute one of the obstacles to the achievement of this programme the government will try to overcome them but will work mainly for better making profitable already available means.

The possible extra resources will serve for the reorganization of the financial situation, increasing reserves in currencies, recovering enterprises and supplying the market with raw materials and equipments for the development of the small and medium enterprises creating employment. In this regard, needs are estimated by the government to 4 billions dollars, besides receipts of exports.

The priority of priorities for the government is rapidly meet needs of the most deprived strata and to rapidly relaunch the economic system through a rigorous choice of kinds of investments and imports to be made. It is on this basis that the programme of imports for 1992 was

determined, which favours sectors such as building-public works and agriculture. Products of high consumption such as medicines and the small medical material will be also imported.

The second part of priorities of the relaunch plan is relating to investments of the public equipment. In this connection, priority will be given to the completion of works underway. The programme of public investment underway by the end of 1991 and for 1992 are assessed to 300 billion dinars.

Plan for Youth Sector

LD2902140992 Algiers APS in English 1145 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Algiers, Feb 29 (APS)—The taking in charge of the essential concerns of youth constitutes an important part of the action plan of the government of Sid Ahmed Ghozali, presented to the Higher State Committee [as received] and issued Thursday. The action envisaged by the government towards the Algerian youth is multisectorial, as it touches all the aspects of life of the most considerable part of the population, mainly education, training, culture and leisure.

The immediate measures proposed by the action plan of the government are essentially aimed at providing didactic material and equipments to schools and enriching libraries with books.

Recommending the continuation of reflection on the reform of secondary education and on the university map, the government action plan also sets as objectives the development of professional consciousness among workers of the educational sector, the organization of actions of training sessions for teachers to improve their qualification.

In the field of culture and leisure, the plan aims at making cultural centers more accessible to youth. As for the youth who are not integrated within the educational and training system, the action plan underlines that the solution remains employment, and points out that apprenticeship and vocational training play a determining role and that it is necessary to continue encouraging this sector.

Moreover, the plan provides for the support of youth by organizing in the best way the creation of youth cooperatives in association with qualified adults. On another development, the government intends to promote the participation of youth in projects and actions of national scale such as the improvement of Saharan (desert) lands.

Plan on 'Social Situation'

LD2902141792 Algiers APS in English 1151 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Algiers, Feb 29 (APS)—The government's plan of action released on Thursday stresses in its chapter "social situation" the various elements of the crisis the Algerian society lives and defines differing actions to be undertaken to settle this situation.

The unsteadying housing policy, the deterioration of employment with a high rate of employment [as received] seem to be the two main causes of the deep social and moral crisis. As for housing, the demographic growth and rural exodus due to the failure of various rural policies are the principal causes of the increase of the deficit registered despite the construction of two million houses within 30 years.

To settle this situation and make the objective constraints related to the general economic situation of the country, admitted, there must be a determination to put in place fair and transparent mechanisms of social housing attribution to needy persons according to their incomes. [sentence as received]

The deterioration of employment and the aggravation of unemployment particularly within youth circles, by reason of the economic crisis and school failure are two other factors that came to increase the social discontent and the moral disarray of youths. Therefore, one has to carry out "an objective evaluation of what has been accomplished" and propose solutions on finalities and modes of organization. Moreover, a real debate must be engaged in order to achieve a large consensus concerning a too sensitive subject: education.

The government's approach vis-vis the mosque "the last resort of conviviality for bewildered youths" falls within the scope of priorities fixed by the Higher State Council. In this regard, an important effort must be put in to give all necessary means to these places of religion, spirituality and moral and religious education instead of being transformed into "a centre from which extremism harms the society. [no ending quotation marks as received]

Plan Seeks State 'Efficiency,' 'Credibility'

LD2902142692 Algiers APS in English 1155 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Algiers, 29/02/92 (APS)—The plan of action of the government grants an increasing priority to the reinforcement of efficiency and credibility of the state. The plan of action of the government stressed that "a real democracy goes together with a strong state".

The credibility of the state, that one is to establish before citizens and the civil society, one is also to establish it before social, national and foreign partners, whose economic and financial cooperation is looked for. "All the national means are mobilized for this operation of national interest, as persons and associations wishing to participate to this task will be requested".

One of the great priorities of the state concerns the improvement of the efficiency of its action as supplier of basic public services to the population. In the field of health, the main axes of intervention of the state, for the improvement of the sanitary and social coverage. [sentence as received]

The field of transport is to be the subject of short term improvement. Concerning posts and telecommunications, it is to assess and adapt the organization of services of posts and telecommunications in connection with imperatives of development of this productive activity.

As to the state pioneer of all these initiatives, it is urgent for the state to know the existing and the underway patrimony, its real situation and availability, the cost of its functioning and its maintenance considering the economic and social advantages expected from its exploitation. This knowledge of the state of the patrimony will enable a global action of reshaping of the programme of investments underway as well as the reexamination of priorities and validity of registered actions.

Haroun Says 50 Killed, 5,000 Arrested in Clashes

LD2702204592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Higher State Council member Ali Haroun, who is visiting Belgium at the request of Council Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf, held a news conference in Brussels today in which he dealt with the political situation in Algeria. In the course of his remarks on the phase following the resignation of President Chadli Bendjedid, he said that the measures taken were not meant to stall the democratic process, which is still continuing. Rather, they were aimed at halting the election process, which would have nearly led Algerian society to live under the yoke of intolerance and darkness, as he put it.

As for the total number of those who were killed in the events of last January and the numbers given in connection with the current arrests, Ali Haroun pointed out that the number of those who were killed is not more than 50 persons, half of whom were officers and privates from ranks of the National People's Army and the gendarmerie. He said there are 5,000 people currently under arrest.

As for his preliminary contacts with officials in Brussels, Ali Haroun affirmed that his explanation of the situation in Algeria had clarifed perceptions about the work of the Higher State Council. As for the state of emergency, Ali Haroun said that every exceptional situation has an exceptional response.

We remind you that after Brussels Ali Haroun will be visiting Germany and Spain.

Further Reportage on Unrest, Disturbances

Disturbances Noted in Constantine

LD2802224992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Total calm prevailed in the capital before and after Friday prayers. Prayers were said inside places of worship. In accordance with a decision of the capital's governor, the saying of prayers in the street was banned.

According to APS, security forces were out in evidence in the streets, with the exception of the Bab el-Oued area and the central university, where they maintained a very low profile.

Calm and reassurance were the features of the Friday prayers today. This is the second consecutive Friday on which there have been no disturbances in the capital.

In Constantine, however, disturbances were recorded after the Friday prayers, particularly in the town center and the el-Ziadiya and Ben Sidi Mabrouk areas.

APS said that about 800 persons, including women and children, staged a procession in the el-Ziadiya area in upper north Constantine. The same source added that the security forces fired shots in the air to disperse a procession in the center of Constantine. No fatalities were recorded in these incidents.

Unrest Affects Universities

LD2902163592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Report from Constantine by correspondent Souad Betina]

[Text] It seems that disturbances have once again returned to Constantine Central University following the closure of the literature and science departments and the publication of the statement issued by the so-called Movement for the Defense of the People's Choice calling for a strike by students from 28 February to 3 March to protest the official closure of Blida and Setif Universities and the besieging of Bab Ezzouar University, as well as the arrest of more than 150 students.

As far as the response of the university administration is concerned, it is expected that a meeting will be held tomorrow afternoon which will bring together all the parties concerned, led by the dean of the university, to take the necessary measures to resolve the problem and to end the paralysis at the university during this current examination period. More details on the matter will be reported later.

Protests Continue on Campuses

LD0103064892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Tension returned once against to Blida University yesterday, and the situation nearly slipped into fierce scuffles.

Blida University was reopened last week following a four-week closure following disturbances. The university authorities have steadfastly sought to hold examinations and have asked the security forces to keep the peace so that exams can be held in an atmosphere of peace and order.

Press reports from Constantine have also indicated that Ain Bey University has once again been hit by disturbances following the movement's [Movement for the Defense of the People's Choice] call for boycotting classes and examinations. Reports from Constantine added that classrooms were empty yesterday.

Annaba University faced a similar situation yesterday. University departments' activities were halted because of the disturbances caused by the same student group, which calls itself the Students Organization for the Defense of the People's Rights.

Saida Court Jails Provincial Assembly President

LD2702172192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] During a session on the issue of those involved in last Friday's incidents, the Saida court pronounced prison sentences of between one to eight months against 44 persons, while 13 other persons were completely acquitted. The court also pronounced suspended sentences of between six to 12 months against 14 people.

It was also learned from the Republic's prosecutor general that the president of the provincial People's Assembly has been sentenced to eight months, as was another member of the same assembly who had received a similar sentence.

Ghozali Comments on Agreement With IAEA

LD2802000192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Algeria has signed in Vienna a second bilateral agreement with the IAEA for the inspection of the Salam plant being built in Ain Ouessera. The document has been signed by Algeria's ambassador to the international organizations in Vienna and the director general of the IAEA.

It should be recalled that IAEA experts twice visited the plant currently under construction and which was supplied by China, to familiarize themselves with the site and the installation. Last April THE SUNDAY TIMES mentioned this plant and spoke of the possibility of nuclear arms production. Mr. Ghozali, the head of government, who was asked by Farida Bakkouche on the "Points Chauds" program, recalled that this is a question of a campaign which has nothing to do with the peaceful operation of the reactor in question.

[Begin recording] [Ghozali] It is a process which has absolutely nothing to do with the campaign initiated last year and recently resumed following the first round of elections. This is why you must believe me. It is because Algeria has been a member of the IAEA for the last 20 years. As a member of the IAEA Algeria accepted from the start of its membership the rules of the agency under which each member of the agency allows the agency to inspect all its nuclear installations. These are the conditions of membership. Therefore, Algeria did not join the agency yesterday or last year. It is a question of several years.

The second reason why you must believe me is that this is not our first reactor. It is our second reactor.

[Bakkouche] Yes, there is the northern plant.

[Ghozali] Yes, the northern plant has always been there. It was under an inspection contract by the IAEA, which inspected it regularly. So why sign [this agreement] now? Well, you must have learned that the reactor has diverged not long ago [as heard], that is to say that it [word indistinct] to function not long ago. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak Returns From Visit to France, Morocco

NC2902185592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo this evening after a visit to France and Morocco, where he held talks with French President Francois Mitterrand and Morocco's King Hassan II, respectively.

Mubarak's three-day trip to France included talks with President Mitterrand on a number of issues of common interest, including Middle East developments and the current dispute between Libya and France, Britain, and the United States.

In Marrakech, President Mubarak and King Hassan II of Morocco held talks, described as extremely important, on Libya's dispute with the three Western states, Middle East developments, and ways to consolidate and unify the Arab position. President Mubarak's unscheduled one-day visit to Morocco came at the invitation of the Moroccan king. [passage omitted]

Comments on Lockerbie Dispute

NC2802194092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Paris, 28 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak talked to journalists today on the outcome of his visit to France, saying: When I visit France, I do not come to discuss a specific subject. French President Francois Mitterrand and I have continuous contact, he said, adding: French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has visited Egypt several times. He was in Morocco yesterday, and today he attended the meeting I had with President Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace.

We talked about the Middle East and about the Libyan issue, he said. One thing must be clear regarding the Libya case, he said, and that is that independent institutions should exist. No Egyptian can ask me to intervene

in an issue before the court. It cannot be done. The courts are independent so that justice will prevail. Naturally, there is democracy in France. A head of state cannot speak about this matter. We speak within the bounds of what is possible.

Mubarak was asked whether he had received a message from King Hassan II of Morocco. He replied: We are in continuous contact with King Hassan, because Morocco is a Security Council member and it will be involved in all the resolutions the Security Council adopts throughout the year.

Asked whether he is optimistic that a peaceful solution will be reached in the Libyan case, President Mubarak said: I hope so, adding: I cannot say anything in this regard except that there are some large powers involved. We are doing everything we can. I cannot be certain that we will find a solution. We have capabilities and we talk with our friends. There are circumstances, factors, issues, and investigations, however, that we cannot influence. There are limits on talking and intervention.

Asked about the Middle East peace process, President Mubarak said: Progress in the peace process depends on the parties now meeting in Washington. We must understand, he added, that Israel does not accept any proposals. We have experience with them. They are a bit tiresome, but we must try, and usually we reach some sort of result.

President Mubarak noted that at the beginning of the Israeli-Egyptian talks, Israel said that it would not discuss the issue of territory from al-'Arish to Ra's Muhammad. We did not demand the suspension of the talks, he said; we made a counterproposal.

Asked whether an Egyptian-Syrian summit will be held in Cairo shortly, President Mubarak said: We meet whenever the need arises. There is no need for propaganda preparation. If we do meet, you will know.

Editorial Praises Mediation Efforts

NC2902102392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 29 Feb 92

[From the "Press Review"]

[Text] In an editorial headlined "Egypt's Efforts To Resolve the Crisis Are Continuing," AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Egypt is continuing its intense efforts to contain the airplane crisis between Libya and the United States, Britain, and France, and to keep it from escalating to the point where it affects regional stability.

President Husni Mubarak's visit to Paris and talks with President Mitterrand and senior officials of his government, as well as his visit to Marrakech and talks with King Hassan II, represent the peak of the Egyptian move that stems from the Egyptian leadership's awareness of its role in supporting our brothers and adopting their issues, on the basis of justice and fairness and to ward off whatever (?harm) other people may seek to inflict on them.

The paper believes that a compromise solution to the airplane crisis would spare Libya potential retaliation; spare the region an unpredictable, explosive situation; and spare the three countries their credibility in maintaining world security and stability. Herein lies the importance of Mubarak's efforts and the need for them to continue.

[Cairo MENA in English at 0704 GMT on 29 February carries a press review that mentions Mubarak's visit to Morocco, adding: "AL-AHRAM said there are some ideas under consideration to hand the two Libyans suspected of bombing an American and a French airliner over to a third party to be tried. Morocco was proposed as that third party. Morocco is the only Arab country who is a Security Council member at present, and has the right of voting on decisions related to the Libyan crisis."]

French 'Conditions' Detailed

JN2902210492 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2005 GMT 29 Feb 92

[By Mustafa Bakri in Cairo; from the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo this evening following visits to France and Morocco, during which he discussed means to resolve the dispute between the United States, Britain, and France on the one hand, and Libya on the other.

I have learned from high-ranking, official Egyptian sources that French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has informed President Mubarak that France is currently studying the possibility of investigating the suspect Libyans in a neutral third country, according to certain conditions.

The French conditions conveyed to President Mubarak are:

—The neutral third country must be acceptable to France, Britain, and the United States if that country is chosen by Libya or an Arab country.

—Investigations in the third country will be conducted by a joint U.S.-British-French investigation team, or by separate teams from each of these countries.

—No Libyans will take part in any phase of these investigations.

—France will not be obligated toward the accused Libyans, in terms of security measures or providing security for them in the neutral country.

—French law shall apply on the territory of that neutral country if the investigations establish the involvement of these suspected Libyans.

—Libyan investigations will not be taken into account. The Libyan investigations in this regard shall be considered an internal investigation, of concern only to the Libyan Government.

—If the investigations result in direct accusations against the Libyan Government or any Libyan official, then the Libyan Government must pledge to hand over that Libyan official to the French Government.

Mubarak discussed with the Moroccan king the French conditions on the choice of the neutral country in which investigations could be conducted. Information confirms that Morocco would be the most likely venue if the French and Libyan conditions can be reconciled.

Foreign Minister Returns From OAU Session

NC2902105392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Addis Ababa last night, ending a week-long visit to Ethiopia during which he led Egypt's delegation to the OAU Ministerial Council meetings, which elected Egypt as session chairman. He also attended meetings of the foreign ministers of the Nile Basin organization, UNDUGO.

In a statement upon arrival, Musa said the OAU Ministerial Council discussed three very important topics—the OAU budget; reorganizing the OAU to make it more effective; and political issues, primarily Somalia.

He added that a joint committee of the United Nations, the OAU, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Arab League will leave for Somalia today to assess the situation there. He noted that the Egyptian embassy, the only one still operating in Somalia, will play a major role and cooperate with the delegation as it addresses the serious Somali situation.

Musa said that the council discussed the bombing of the U.S. plane and listened to the Libyan foreign minister, who asserted that his country adheres to Security Council Resolution 731 and denounces terrorism. The ministers emphasized that there should be no military solution of this problem.

On the Palestinian issue, Musa stressed that the African countries support the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination.

The committee proposed by Egypt to settle African disputes and conflicts will begin its work, he said.

Musa is scheduled to forward a report to President Mubarak on the outcome of his visit to Ethiopia.

Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev Visits Cairo

Received at Airport

NC0103080492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived in Cairo this morning for a visit of several hours. Dr. 'Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, received the Russian minister at the airport.

In a statement upon arrival, Kozyrev said he will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on bilateral relations, and cooperation between Egypt and the Commonwealth countries. He added that the talks will also deal with Middle East peace in light of the current Washington talks and efforts to find a peaceful solution to the issue.

Dr. al-Baz said Egypt and Russia enjoy ties of friendship and amity, and expressed the hope that relations will be enhanced and that Russia will play a greater international role.

Al-Baz expressed his belief that Russia considers the Middle East a priority, because Russia is an important country and a Security Council member, as well as a country with great influence and impact on international issues in the Middle East.

He emphasized the need for closer cooperation between Russia and Arab countries, and noted that Egyptian-Russian relations deserve special interest as a pioneering experiment in Russian-Arab cooperation.

Holds Talks With Mubarak

NC0103142292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at the Presidential Office this afternoon. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Russian Ambassador to Egypt Vladimir Polyakov also attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, the Russian foreign minister stated that he had exchanged views with President Mubarak on issues of mutual interest.

He said: I listened to President Mubarak's profound views and his valuable information, not just about the Middle East and the Gulf, but also about events in the Commonwealth of Independent States. I very much admired the president's presentation, and could not add anything to his information on these issues. I left the meeting enriched with wisdom and knowledge.

The Russian minister added: My general impression is that we are right to regard Egypt as the focal point between Russia and the Arab world, and indeed, the

entire region. Egypt is the fortress that confronts all forms of extremism. I believe that the friendship between Egypt and Russia—which is a major power and a permanent member of the UN Security Council—is proceeding along its proper strategic path.

The Russian foreign minister announced: I have proposed that our Libyan friends continue cooperating with the UN Security Council resolution, which was adopted unanimously and must be implemented. It is the ideal solution to this crisis and will satisfy everyone.

Responding to a question about his proposal to hand over the suspects to the UN secretary general, the Russian foreign minister said that this is based on the resolution itself, which accords the secretary general a major role.

He continued: I believe that the best solution is to hand over the two suspects to the UN secretary general and leave further action to his discretion. The secretary general will decide what measures to take against the suspects. This is the most civilized way to resolve the crisis and is in total agreement with the Security Council resolution.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa commented on Egypt's stance on the Russian proposal to hand over the suspects to the UN secretary general, saying: We have consulted with the Russian foreign minister. We will continue our consultations in line with the Egyptian viewpoint, and its handling of the various aspects of this serious problem.

'Amr Musa noted that the Egyptian position is based on the discussions held by the OAU's Ministerial Council. He said this council reflects the Egyptian stance on this issue.

On Egyptian-Russian economic ties and prospects for cooperation, the Russian foreign minister said: We discussed the future of these ties with President Mubarak, and agreed to develop our industrial relations and push them in the right direction in line with our permanent friendship with Egypt.

The Russian foreign minister said that President Mubarak extended an invitation to Russian President Boris Yeltsin to visit Egypt in the context of the continuing consultations between the two countries.

Delegations Discuss Current Issues

NC0103171792 Cairo Egyptian Space Channel in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Official talks between Egyptian and Russian delegations began in Cairo this afternoon under the chairmanship of Foreign Minister Musa and his Russian counterpart, Andrey Kozyrev. The delegations reviewed bilateral relations and how to promote and develop them in the economic, political, and cultural spheres, in light of the changes in the CIS. They also discussed the international situation under the new world order, and implementing agreements signed by Egypt and the former USSR.

The delegations also reviewed the results of the Egyptian economic delegation's visit to the CIS.

Egyptian and Russian officials reviewed current Middle East peace efforts, their results, and ways of strengthening them. They discussed the role played by the cosponsors of the peace conference, which began in Madrid.

How to coordinate stands on current international crises was another topic of discussion.

Kozyrev Meets Libyan Official

LD0103122892 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation met in Cairo this morning with Andrey Kozyrev, foreign minister of the Russian Federation. Bilateral relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Russian Federation, and ways to develop them, were discussed during the meeting. It was also agreed to continue meetings between officials in the two countries.

The meeting, which was attended by the brother coordinator of Libyan Arab-Egyptian relations in the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Russian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, also reviewed and discussed issues of mutual interest.

During the meeting, the brother secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation explained to his excellency the minister the civilized position which the Great Jamahiriyah has pursued in handling the issue of the American Pan Am airplane, and the practical suggestions which it has put forward to find a peaceful solution to this issue in accordance with international law and convention.

Holds News Conference, Departs

NC0103194392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev emphasized the depth of Egyptian-Russian relations, and said that good results were achieved in his talks today with President Mubarak and Foreign Minister Musa.

Speaking at a news conference prior to his departure, the Russian minister said that his country and Egypt have chosen the right path to strengthen bilateral relations.

Answering a question about the most important issues discussed during his talks in Cairo, Kozyrev said that the talks dealt with three important subjects, the first of which concerns bilateral political, economic, and cultural relations. He noted that the prospects are broad for

development of these relations. The second subject, he said, deals with a peaceful settlement to the Middle East crisis. He affirmed that his country is cooperating with Egypt on this issue, noting that Egypt is a large country with an important role to play in the region. The third subject emphasizes the need to jointly confront of all types of extremism, he said, adding that Russia wants peaceful relations within the new CIS.

Kozyrev was asked about Russia's role in achieving stability in the Middle East. He replied that the talks Russia hosted were held within the framework of the multilateral negotiations. Positions are currently being coordinated with our Egyptian friends and the other parties, he said, noting: We are trying to encourage and move the talks forward.

Regarding his meeting in Cairo today with Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libyan secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Relations, Kozyrev said: What we are asking for is the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution. I stressed the importance of implementing this resolution to settle this problem. I offered Libya my advice on how to implement the UN resolution.

Kozyrev said that relations between Russia and the other CIS states are based on friendship.

A reporter asked him about Russia's position on the Israeli settlement policy. He responded: With regard to Israel's position in the Middle East, we hope that its policy regarding the peace process is moving in the right direction and will lead to a peaceful solution in the region. We have repeatedly said that the continued building of settlements contradicts international law and legitimacy. It is also necessary to have guarantees for Israel's interests and the other parties.

Foreign Minister Musa, at Cairo airport to bid Kozyrev farewell, affirmed that the talks were constructive and good, and dealt with the consolidation of bilateral relations, saying: Our objective is to intensify contacts to achieve regional peace and strengthen bilateral relations.

Musa affirmed that Egypt's position on the internal situation in Iraq is clear: It will not participate in any plans to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs. Iraqi internal affairs are the business of the Iraqis themselves. He explained that Egypt supports the integrity of Iraqi territorial borders and does not approve of these borders being weakened. He stressed that this is Egypt's firm position and that it will be maintained.

After the news conference, the Russian foreign minister left Cairo following a visit of several hours.

Libya

UN Envoy Hails 'Extremely Positive' Talks

LD2802151192 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1451 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Feb (JANA)—UN envoy Vasiliy Safronchuk left Tripoli this afternoon after hailing the positive cooperation shown by the Jamahiriyah with the United Nations.

In a statement to JANA prior to his departure, he emphasized that the talks he held in the Great Jamahiriyah were extremely positive. He stated that he was encouraged by the spirit he had noted during this visit. The UN envoy indicated that he would convey the results of his talks and his impressions to the UN secretary general.

Judge Seeks To Quit Lockerbie Inquiry

LD0103152392 Tripoli JANA in English 1442 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabia [March] 1, JAMAHARIYA NEWS AGENCY—JANA learnt that the Libyan investigating judge into the Lockerbie case applied to the General Assembly of the Supreme Court, which delegated him to investigate the case, requesting his removal from continuing the investigation process in the case. He cited the following grounds for his application:

1. Lack of cooperation by the appropriate authorities in the United States of America and the United Kingdom and Scotland in not enabling him to see all documents related to the case or listening to anyone may have an interest in the issue.

2. Lack of response to him to conduct the necessary investigations in the aforementioned countries and inspect the minutes on which the accusations were based.

3. The television and radio reporting of the case giving it a political character.

4. The numerous statements by officials within and without the country dealing with the case and deciding some issues ignoring the judicial process in the Great Jamahiriya which has entrenched traditions and total independence and made it throughout its history free from any direct or indirect influence in exercising its task in an earnest and impartial manner.

5. The humiliation of the Libyan judiciary and the declaration of non confidence in it before the whole world and conversely declaring the impartiality of other countries' judiciary. This is a charge my conscience will never allow me to bear.

6. Internal and external pressures to trample underfoot the law and attempts to force me to arbitrarily violate the law and this I am unable to do.

7. The acceptance of the participation of foreign judges to question ordinary Libyan nationals before a Libyan judge in their country is another humiliation of the Libyan judiciary which I cannot accept at all. Would I be allowed to investigate American or English nationals in their own country on acts against Libya which the Libyan law considers as criminal especially when the issue is mere hearsay or suspicion for no evidence was presented so far which may prove otherwise regarding these nationals.

8. The psychological terrorism used as [word indistinct] every day and week like the false declaration which claimed that the accused fled or were executed.

9. Non respect of the Libyan law of procedures while Libya is an independent sovereign state as recognized by the United Nations. I am an investigating judge entrusted with the task of conducting an investigation with the two suspected men on the one hand and presssures of the secretary general of the United Nations, the General People's Committee for Justice and the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation exert pressure and discuss the place and time of the investigation on the other hand. What is it left then of the sacredness of the law of proceedures of an independent state and hence what am I doing?

Foreign Minister: Libya Has 'Nothing To Fear'

NC2902201592 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 26 Feb 92 p 54

[Report on an interview with Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison, by Usamah 'Ajjaj; place, date not given]

[Text] Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Bishari explained why he made two trips to Cairo in one week. In an exclusive statement to AKHIR SA'AH, he said: We conduct ongoing consultations with Egypt at all levels, especially between President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in accordance with our integration agreements. Our borders are open and people move in both directions. The Egyptian citizen in Libya feels at home; there are approximately 1.5 million well-treated Egyptians in Libya.

Al-Bishari discussed the U.S. accusations, saying: We must have talks and define our course of action. Thus my visit to Cairo is not unusual. We ask our brothers in Egypt their advice and views, and they do the same. Egypt has declared that it is opposed to any military measure or the imposition of an economic boycott. Al-Bishari stressed that the honorable stand of President Mubarak and the Egyptian people on this issue brings us closer still. We are concerned about how to escape this dilemma, which affects not only Libya. Any problems will have a direct influence on Egypt's national security. Libya is an extension of Egypt, and vice versa. The Libyan people's suffering certainly affects Egypt. There is an historic precedent that confirms this. A large number of Libyans fled to Egypt when the Italians occupied Libya in 1911. Resistance against the occupation began in Cairo. The liberation army was organized at Kilo 9, near Cairo, and it moved toward Libya in 1941. Our fate is linked. Any visit falls within the framework of regular and constant consultations between Libyan and Egyptian officials.

Ibrahim al-Bishari denied that there has been any change in the Egyptian stand, saying: Egypt has not asked that the defendants be handed over. On the contrary, the Egyptian stand has been positive, standing for justice and right.

Al-Bishari was asked whether Libya is preparing for a UN Security Council resolution imposing an economic boycott or sanctions. He responded: Libya is not alone in the issue. The Arab brothers and the neighboring countries are with us. I do not believe that the Arab countries would agree to a boycott. Egypt, for example, has played a positive role in the search for a peaceful solution to the crisis. President Mubarak and his senior aides have made important contributions, due to our excellent relations.

I do not believe that Egyptian planes will not land in Libya or that Egypt will prevent Libyan planes from landing here, he added. In the end, we are one people, one country, one fate. There are the Arab countries in the Maghreb and we are a member of the Maghreb Union. They will not accept a boycott of Libya. The same applies to the Gulf countries and Syria. A boycott is a grave precedent which will be followed by other steps that will affect Syria or Algeria. A boycott would not be aimed at the Libyan people but against the Arab nation. We are a small people and our material needs are limited. Libya's constructive stand on this issue will make many countries hesitate before implementing any boycott. European countries have vital interests in our country and would be damaged by a boycott, which we hope will not take place. We hope to reach a satisfactory and reasonable solution to this issue that will take into account the rights of all parties.

After receiving the Security Council resolution, he continued, Libya announced that it would deal with it positively, in accordance with the UN Charter, and without any infringement on our country's sovereignty. We asked UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali to devise a specific mechanism for implementing the resolution. We are in regular contact to find such a mechanism, in a way that will not infringe on our country's sovereignty and will fall within the framework of respect for international norms in relations between countries.

We have nothing to fear, he added. We firmly believe in our citizens' innocence. As a state, we have no objection to having them tried anywhere in the world, except the United States and Britain. Libyan justice, the defendants' rights, and their lawyers might prevent this, however. If we decide to hand them over for trial somewhere else, these parties would probably object.

This is why we have asked for contacts between Libyan judges and those in these countries. We hope they can find a way out that is satisfactory to both sides.

The judge in charge of the case has asked the other party to give us access to the witnesses and evidence. They say that there was a suitcase with explosives which was sent from Malta to Frankfurt, and then to London. The Maltese Government, judiciary, and airlines have issued an official statement denying this, and stressing that no suitcase was left on the flight that day. The accusations are obviously groundless. If we go to a neutral court, the truth will come out. The United States, however, has given this issue a political and propaganda dimension.

Statement Issued on U.S. 'Media Campaign'

LD0103191292 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1725 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Mar (JANA)—The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has issued a statement:

Within the framework of the intensive media campaign which the United States is conducting against the Jamahiriyah and its positive stances in dealing with the issue of the Pan Am airplane—which enjoyed and is still enjoying the understanding and support of the countries of the world—the official State Department spokesman has returned once again to making false accusations, which are not based on any truth, against the Jamahiriyah.

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation wants to clarify the following:

First, the U.S. Administration wants to destroy international law and the UN Charter, and to replace dialogue and peaceful solutions with a policy of economic sanctions and aggression. The world can see the true aims of the U.S. Administration, which is exercising pressure and state terror on the international community in order to obtain blessing for its premeditated aggression against Libya; and to distort the image of its people, who concentrate on building their life and shaping their future to conquer the desert, and on building the great man-made river to create a shining future.

Second, the Jamahiriyah denies the unjust U.S. allegations of supporting terrorism. Rather, it considers these accusations an exercise in official terrorism on the part of the United States. It also categorically and firmly denies the presence of camps on its territories, and requests that the (UN) secretary general, or whomever he designates, search for the facts with the aim of refuting these allegations. The Jamahiriyah is prepared to offer any facilities to the secretary general or his deputy, so that he may arrive at the truth.

Third, the Jamahiriyah wants to caution world and U.S. public opinion that it is being exposed to an unjust and false campaign, which is not based on any evidence or proof, the aim of which is to mislead world and U.S. public opinion for private interests.

Fourth, the Jamahiriyah calls for the respect of international law, the UN Charter, and international legitimacy in letter and deed.

Fifth, the Jamahiriyah affirms its respect and commitment to the UN Charter, international law, and international legitimacy. It (affirms) its resistance to the law of force, and calls on the international community to stress the authority of international law and the UN Charter as a basis for international relations.

Report on 'Terrorist Training Camps' Denied

LD2802152392 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1423 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Feb (JANA)—JANA's political editor has written a commentary on a report published by THE WASHINGTON POST, in which it cites what it describes as senior U.S. officials alleging that Libya supports terrorism and is running five terrorist training camps.

The editor said:

It is not unusual for THE WASHINGTON POST or its sources to fabricate and publish such allegations, having already claimed that the suspects in the bombing of Pan Am 103 had vanished or been executed. The intentions of THE WASHINGTON POST and its sources were exposed, however, when various international media organs discovered that the suspects were alive. THE WASHINGTON POST and its sources are now propagating a new slander.

Libya has repeatedly denounced international terrorism and announced its stance against it at the highest levels. It would like to reiterate its invitation to any specialized international party to confirm the nonexistence of any training camps of this kind in its territory. Libya is the victim of international terrorism, rather than the other way around. The objective of THE WASHINGTON POST and its sources is to frighten and fool the public, to prepare the way for executing and justifying measures against the Jamahiriyah.

Libya stresses that this media-escalated campaign in which THE WASHINGTON POST is taking part in the United States, in concert with media circles in France and Britain, is just a new beginning in preparing public opinion and putting pressure on states and international organizations so they will agree to take measures against the Jamahiriyah.

'Fabrications and Justifications'

LD2902173592 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Feb (JANA)—JANA's political editor has commented on U.S. allegations of so-called terrorist training camps in Libya. He stated:

Libyans laugh when they hear they are accused of training terrorists, at a time when they are busy working to complete the great man-made river—the hope of their lives.

Some Libyans say those who accuse us are aware of this. Consequently, the aim of the United States is to put a halt to this humane and civilized program, thus proving that the United States is the enemy of the people's progress and prosperity.

At the same time, Libyans regret hearing these absurd, evil-intentioned fabrications and justifications meant to punish a safe people. While Libyans know this accusation is false, what benefit can there be from fabricating such lies? On the contrary, it will yield no fruit for its perpetrators, because it convinces all Libyans that the United States is not fair; strengthens doubts about U.S. credibility; and brings people to the conclusion that the allegations regarding the Pan Am flight are fabricated and false, especially because the people are aware that some people died because of the lie of the Berlin discotheque, in which it was established that Libya had no involvement.

Do these people not feel any shame about fabricating lies against the poor Libyans? What is more, have they no pity for the credibility of the United States? The United States is a superpower that should be immune to the disease of hatred, racism, and the crusades.

Is the world not a witness to this terrorism being practiced by the United States against Libya and similar small peoples? Does the United States not feel any shame that it used to fear these people only out of fear of the Soviet Union? Is the United States not worried that these people will say that the United States can feel fear but not shame?

Morocco

Further on Visit of French Minister Dumas

Discusses Lockerbie, EEC Relations

LD2802115892 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Excerpts] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas described the hour-long meeting he held yesterday with King Hassan II of Morocco as fruitful. [passage omitted] Denis Poncet reports from Rabat:

[Poncet] King Hassan II, in his talks in Marrakech with Roland Dumas set the discussions in the context of the future, apparently wishing to forget the recent past. Along the same lines Paris has not ceased its attempts to calm matters with Rabat: the proposed free-trade zone between Morocco and the EEC, for example. [passage omitted]

Some concerns remain, however—Algeria, of course: The Moroccans believe that the Algerian authorities should not have gone into action against the Islamic Salvation Front, while at the same time they believe that Mohamed Boudiaf is the man for the situation. The most burning issue, however, is undoubtedly the Libyan affair. Although Morocco voted for Resolution 731, the king clearly stated that his country would not vote for any sanctions against Tripoli. Foreign Minister Filali, for his part, proposed the creation of an international tribunal, which is difficult to reconcile with the law. Morocco, like Egypt, does not want a second so-called Iraqi affair. The Arab world suffered enough from the first, as did French-U.S. relations. It remains to be seen if George Bush will be receptive to these arguments.

Comments on Talks, Departs

LD2802141292 Rabat MAP in English 1210 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Marrakech, Feb. 28 (MAP)—Relations between Morocco and France have "a privileged character" and France is determined to ensure "a good management to our common interests", said French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas here Thursday.

Dumas who arrived in Morocco Wednesday and left Thursday said at a meeting with the press that his country considers Morocco as "a stability element in the Maghreb region, necessary not only to the Maghreb but to the whole Mediterranean area".

Recalling that France ranks first among Morocco's clients, suppliers and foreign private investors, Dumas said he asserted his Moroccan interlocutors that "Paris grants a special consideration to Morocco's role".

He underlined the close relationship existing between Moroccan and French nationals saying that about 575,000 Moroccans are settled in France and that 25 to 26,000 French are living in Morocco "in the best conditions".

The French Foreign Minister who was received by King Hassan II and who conferred with his Moroccan peer Abdellatif Filali said France made a double initiative at the EEC level but asked the EC Commission to resume negotiations on the Morocco-EEC fisheries accord the soonest possible and to examine prospects for concluding a free exchange accord with Morocco.

The two topics figure on the agenda of the general affairs council that is to meet next Monday in Brussels, he said explaining that given Morocco's clear will to get closer to the EEC and given the economic orientation adopted by this country, negotiations on the matter might start shortly.

The French foreign minister said the European Parliament veto of the Morocco-EEC financial protocol is incidental and must not strain the two sides' relations. He said the proposed free exchange accord is not a substitution to the financial protocol it is something different concerning special points and orientations meant to materialize the rapprochement France so eagerly wants and contributes to.

Dumas said further that he discussed with Moroccan officials a set of bilateral issues including the visa charges, the exchange of students, educational matters, French learning and others.

The Middle East peace process was equally brought up, Dumas said adding that a working group was recently set up in Italy to think over the Jerusalem status in the prospect of peaceful settlement. He said King Hassan II who chairs the al-Quds Committee informed him about his ideas and analyses on the issue.

Dumas added that he extended to King Hassan II an invitation from President Francois Mitterrand to visit France.

To a question on the immigration control and visa enforcement, Dumas said France was compelled to honor the commitments made at the EEC level but that instructions were given so that France applies the measures with "open mindedness". He said France wants to avoid illegal immigration which entails problems to all sides.

Outlined perspectives prompt one to hope that "a favorable settlement to the Western Sahara issue" will be shortly reached, said French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Dumas who was on a short visit to Morocco told the media here Thursday shortly before flying back home that France eagerly wishes the settlement of this issue "which is Morocco's top concern".

Egypt's Mubarak Arrives, Holds 'Cordial' Talks

LD2802230392 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Excerpts] First we go to Marrakech, where Egyptiam President Husni Mubarak arrived this evening. His Majesty King Hassan II was at Menara Airport to greet him. [passage omitted]

Cordial talks took place between His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, who was accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and Prince Moulay Rachid, and His Excellency President Mubarak, who was accompanied by his son 'Ala' Mubarak.

Departs 29 Feb

LD2902194492 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and Prince Moulay Rachid, said goodbye at noon today to Morocco's guest, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who arrived in our country yesterday on a private visit. In the course of his visit the leaders of the two countries held political talks, and his majesty gave a dinner banquet in honor of the Egyptian president. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Polisario Accuses Morocco of Airspace Violations

LD2902133892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Rio de Oro and Saquia el-Hamra] Front today accused Moroccan authorities of violating the cease-fire agreement that has been in force since September. The Front's statement asserts that a Moroccan warplane twice violated Saharan airspace in the past 48 hours.

Alleges Border Violation by Morocco

LD0103140192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] The Polisario has made new accusations against Morocco. A statement issued by the Sahraoui Information Ministry has stated that Moroccan Army elements infiltrated Sahraoui territory last Thursday and planted mines there for the second time in less than one week.

The Sahraoui Government has strongly denounced this action and considers it to be a flagrant violation of the cease-fire resolution that came into force last September.

Kuwait

Ministers Urge UN Body To Force Iraqi Compliance

LD0103144992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 1 Mar (KUNA)—The Council of Ministers has called on the UN Security Council to take the necessary measures to compel Iraq to immediately comply with international resolutions in such a manner that would secure the full implementation of all the resolutions in line with cease-fire resolutions to end the war to liberate Kuwait. This came in the press statement by Dhari al-'Uthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs, following the weekly Council of Ministers session which was held this morning under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah.

Al-'Uthman pointed out that Council of Ministers had reviewed at its meeting the UN Security Council's deliberation on the UN secretary general's report on the findings of the UN commission entrusted with scrapping the Iraqi regime's weapons of total destruction. He added that the Council of Ministers has pointed out that the UN Security Council's statement has reaffirmed what Kuwait has always asserted about the Iraqi regime's determination to show contempt for international resolutions and its customary procrastination in complying with them.

Al-'Uthman added pointedly that the Council of Ministers has called in this respect for the UN Security Council to force the Iraqi regime to immediately comply with the international resolutions in such a manner as to guarantee the safety of innocent [Kuwaiti] prisoners and detainees and their return to their families, to proceed with the demarcation of borders, to return all stolen goods, and to ensure full compliance with all UN Security Council resolutions on the cease-fire in the war to liberate Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Issues New Government Decrees

Basic Law of Government

LD0103193192 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Mar (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, today issued a royal decree embodying the Basic Law of Government. The following is the text of the decree:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

No. A/90

Date: 1 March 1992

With God's help, we, Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

Having taken into consideration the public interest and in view of the state's development in various fields and out of the desire to achieve the objectives we are seeking, have decreed the following:

1. The promulgation of the Basic Law of Government in the attached form.

2. All the regulations and orders and decrees shall remain valid when this basic law comes into force until they are amended to make them compatible with it.

3. This decree shall be published in the official gazette and shall come into force as of the date of its publication.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

THE BASIC LAW OF GOVERNMENT

Chapter One: General Principles

Article 1. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a sovereign Arab Islamic state with Islam as its religion; God's book, and the Sunna of his Prophet, God's prayers and peace be upon him, are its Constitution; Arabic is its language; and Riyadh is its capital.

Article 2. The state's public holidays are 'Id al-Fitr and 'Id al-Adha. Its calendar is the Hegira calendar.

Article 3. The state's flag shall be as follows:

a. It shall be green.

b. Its width shall be equal to two thirds of its length.

c. The words "There Is No God But Allah, and Muhammad is Allah's Prophet" shall be inscribed in its center with a drawn sword under it. The statute shall define the rules pertaining to it.

Article 4. The state's emblem shall consist of two crossed swords with a palm tree in the upper space between them. The statute shall define the state's anthem and its medals.

Chapter Two: Law of Government

Article 5.

a. The law of government in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is monarchy.

b. Rule passes to the sons of founder King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Faysal al Sa'ud and to their childrens' children. The most upright among them is to be paid allegiance in accordance with (the principles of) the Holy Koran and the Venerable Prophet's tradition.

c. The king chooses the heir apparent and relieves him by royal order.

d. The heir apparent is to devote his time as an heir apparent and to whatever missions the king entrusts him with.

e. The heir apparent assumes the powers of the king on the latter's death until the act of allegiance has been carried out.

Article 6. Citizens are to pay allegiance to the king in accordance with the Holy Koran and the Prophet's tradition, in submission and obedience and in times of ease and difficulty, fortune and adversity.

Article 7. The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia derives power from the Holy Koran and the Prophet's tradition.

Article 8. The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stands on the bases of justice, shura [consultation], and equality in accordance with the Islamic shari'ah.

Chapter Three: Constituents of the Saudi Family

Article 9. The family is the kernel of Saudi society... and its members shall be brought up on the basis of the Islamic faith, and loyalty and obedience to God, His messenger, and to guardians... respect for and implementation of the law, love of and pride in the homeland, and the glorious history that the Islamic faith stipulates.

Article 10. The state will aspire to strengthen family ties, maintain its Arab and Islamic values, and care for all its members, and to provide proper conditions for the growth of their resources and capabilities.

Article 11. Saudi society will be based on the principle of adherence to God's bond, on its cooperation in good deeds and piety, and on vouching for each other and on their indivisibility.

Article 12. The consolidation of national unity is a duty, and the state will prevent anything that may lead to disunity, sedition, or separation.

Article 13. Education will aim at instilling the Islamic faith in the young generation, to provide them with knowledge and skills, and to prepare them to become useful members in the building of their society, members who love their homeland and are proud of its history.

Chapter Four: Economic Principles

Article 14. All God's bestowed wealth, be it underground, on the surface, or in national territorial waters, on the land or in maritime domains under the state's control, all such wealth resources are the property of the state as defined by the law. The law defines means of exploiting, protecting, and developing such wealth in the interest of the state, its security, and its economy.

Article 15. No privilege is to be granted and no public resource is to be exploited without a law.

Article 16. Public funds are sacrosanct. The state has an obligation to protect it, and both citizens and residents are to preserve it.

Article 17. Property, capital, and labor are essential elements in the Kingdom's economic and social being. They are personal rights which perform a social function in accordance with the Islamic shari'ah.

Article 18. The state protects the freedom of private property and its sanctity. No one is to be stripped of his property except when this serves public interest, in which case fair compensation is due.

Article 19. The public confiscation of money is prohibited and the penalty of private confiscation is to be imposed only by a legal order.

Article 20. Taxes and fees are to be imposed on the basis of justice and only when the need for them arises. The imposition, amendment, revocation of, and exemption from them is only permitted by law.

Article 21. Tithes [al-zakatu] are to be levied and paid to legitimate recipients.

Article 22. Economic and social development is to be achieved according to a just and scientific plan.

Chapter Five: Rights and Duties

Article 23. The state protects Islam; it implements its shari'ah; it orders people to do right and to shun evil; it fulfills the duty regarding God's call.

Article 24. The state works to build and serve the holy places; it provides security and care for those who come on pilgrimage and minor pilgrimage by providing facilities and peace.

Article 25. The state strives to attain the hopes of the Arab and Islamic nation for solidarity and unity of word, and to consolidate its relations with friendly states.

Article 26. The state protects human rights in accordance with the Islamic shari'ah.

Article 27. The state guarantees the right of the citizen and his family in cases of emergency, illness, disability, and old age. It supports the system of social security and encourages institutions and persons to contribute acts of charity.

Article 28. The state provides job opportunities to whomever is capable of carrying out such jobs; it enacts laws that protect the employee and the employer.

Article 29. The state guards science, literature, and culture; it encourages scientific research; it protects the Islamic and Arab heritage and contributes to Arab, Islamic, and human civilization.

Article 30. The state provides public education and pledges to combat illiteracy.

Article 31. The state takes care of health issues and provides health care for each citizen.

Article 32. The state works for the preservation, protection, and improvement of the environment and for the prevention of pollution.

Article 33. The state establishes and equips the armed forces for the defense of the Islamic religion, the two holy places, society, and the citizen.

Article 34. The defense of the Islamic religion, society, and the country is the duty of each citizen. The regime explains the provision of the military service.

Article 35. The statutes shall define the regulations governing Saudi Arabian nationality.

Article 36. The state shall provide security for all its citizens and all residents within its territory, and no one shall be arrested, imprisoned, or have his actions restricted except in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article 37. Houses shall have their sanctity and shall not be entered without the permission of their owners or be searched except in cases specified by statutes.

Article 38. Penalties shall be personal and there shall be no crime or penalty except in accordance with religious law [shari'ah] or organizational law [nizami]. There shall be no punishment except for acts committed subsequent to the coming into force of the organizational law.

Article 39. Information, publications, and all expression media shall adhere to courteous language [kalimah tayyibah] and the state's regulations and shall contribute to educating the nation and bolstering its unity. All acts that lead to sedition or division or harm the state's security and its public relations or detract from man's dignity and rights shall be prohibited. The statutes shall define all that.

Article 40. Telegraphic, postal, telephonic, and other means of communication messages shall be safeguarded. They cannot be confiscated, delayed, read, or listened to except in cases defined by statutes.

Article 41. Residents in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shall abide by its laws and shall observe the values of Saudi society and shall respect its traditions and sentiments.

Article 42. The state shall grant political asylum when the public interest demands this. The statutes and international agreements shall define the law and procedures governing the extradition of ordinary criminals.

Article 43. The king's court and that of the crown prince shall be open to all citizens and to anyone who has a complaint or a plea against an injustice. Every individual shall have the right to address the public authorities in all matters affecting him.

Chapter Six: Authorities of the State

Article 44. The authorities of the state consist of the following:

a. The judicial authority

b. The executive authority

c. The regulatory authority

These authorities will cooperate with each other in the performance of their duties in accordance with this and other laws. The king shall be the point of reference for all these authorities.

Article 45. The source of the deliverance of fatwa in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia... are God's book and the sunnah of his messenger.... The law will define the composition of the senior ulema body, the administration of scientific research, the deliverance of fatwa, and the body of the senior ulema's functions.

Article 46. The judiciary is an independent authority... there is no hegemony over judges in the dispensation of their judgement except for that of the Islamic shari'ah.

Article 47. The right to litigate is ensured for citizens and residents in the Kingdom on an equal basis. The law defines the required procedures for this.

Article 48. The courts will apply the rules of the Islamic shari'ah to the cases that are brought before them, in accordance with what is indicated in the book and the sunnah, and the statutes decreed by the ruler which do not contradict the book or the sunnah.

Article 49. By observing what is stated in Article 53 of this law, courts shall arbitrate in all disputes and crimes.

Article 50. The king or whoever deputizes for him are concerned with implementing judicial rulings.

Article 51. The system explains the formation of the Higher Council of Justice and its prerogatives; it also explains the ranking lists of the courts and their prerogatives.

Article 52. The appointment of judges and the termination of their duties are carried out by a royal decree according to a proposal from the Higher Council of Justice in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article 53. The law explains the ranking lists of the tribunal of complaints and its prerogatives.

Article 54. The law explains the relation between the body of investigation and the general prosecutor, and their organization and prerogatives.

Article 55. The king carries out the policy of the nation, a legitimate policy in accordance with the provisions of Islam; the king oversees the implementation of the Islamic shari'ah, the systems, the state's general policies, and the protection and defense of the country.

Article 56. The king is the head of the Council of Ministers; he is assisted in carrying out his duties by members of the Council of Ministers in accordance with the provisions of this law and other laws. The system of the Council of Ministers explains the prerogatives of the Council concerning domestic and foreign affairs, and the organization of and coordination between government apparatuses. It also explains the conditions that should be fulfilled by the ministers, their prerogatives, the system of their questioning, and all their issues. The law of the Council of Ministers and its prerogatives are to be amended in accordance with this law.

Article 57.

a. The king appoints and relieves deputies of the prime minister and members of the Council of Ministers by royal decree.

b. The deputies of the prime minister and ministers of the Council of Ministers are considered responsible, by expressing solidarity to the king, for implementing the Islamic shari'ah and the state's general policy.

c. The king has the right to dissolve and reorganize the Council of Ministers.

Article 58. The king appoints those who enjoy the rank of ministers, deputy ministers, and an excellent class, and relieves them from their posts by a royal decree in accordance with explanations included in the law. The ministers and heads of independent departments are responsible, before the prime minister, for the ministries and departments that they supervise.

Article 59. The law defines the rules of the civil service, including salaries, awards, compensation, favors, and pensions.

Article 60. The king is commander in chief of all the armed forces. He appoints officers and ends their service according to the law.

Article 61. The king declares the state of emergency, general mobilization, and war; and the law defines the rules of this.

Article 62. If there is danger threatening the safety of the Kingdom or its territorial integrity, or the security of its people and its interests, or which impedes the functioning of state institutions, the king may take urgent measures to face this danger. And, if the king sees that these measures should continue, he may then adopt the necessary regulations to this end.

Article 63. The king receives kings and heads of state. He appoints his representatives to states and he receives the credentials of state representatives to him.

Article 64. The king awards medals as defined by regulations.

Article 65. The king may delegate prerogatives to the crown prince by royal decree.

Article 66. In the event of travel abroad, the king issues a royal decree delegating to the crown prince the management of the state's affairs and the looking after the interests of the people, as defined by the royal decree.

Article 67. The regulatory authority lays down regulations and motions likely to meet the interests of or remove what is bad in the affairs of the state, in accordance with the Islamic shari'ah. This authority exercises its functions in accordance with this law and the laws pertaining to the Council of Ministers and the Shura Council.

Article 68. A Consultative Council is to be created. Its statute will show how it is formed, how it exercises its powers, and how its members are selected. The king has the right to dissolve the Consultative Council and to reform it.

Article 69. The king has the right to call the Consultative Council and the Council of Ministers to convene a joint meeting and to invite whomever he wishes to attend that meeting to discuss whatever matters he wishes.

Article 70. International treaties, agreements, regulations, and concessions are approved and amended by royal decrees.

Article 71. Statutes are to be published in the official gazette and take effect from the date of publication unless another date is specified.

Chapter Seven: Financial Affairs

Article 72.

a. The statute explains the provisions of the state's earnings and their deposit in the state's general budget.

b. Earnings are entered and spent according to rules specified in the statute.

Article 73. Any undertaking to pay a sum of money from the general budget must be made according to the provisions of the budget. If this is not possible according to the provisions of the budget, it will then be done according a royal decree.

Article 74. Selling, renting, or using state's assets is not permitted except in accordance with the statute.

Article 75. The statutes will define monetary and banking provisions, and standards, weights, and measures.

Article 76. The law will fix the state's financial year and will announce the budget by way of a royal decree. It will also assess the revenues and expenditures of that year at least one month before the start of the financial year. If for necessary reasons the budget is not announced and the new financial year starts, the previous year's budget will remain in force until the new budget is announced.

Article 77. The competent body will prepare the state's final statement of accounting for the passing year and will submit it to the head of the Council of Ministers.

Article 78. The same provisions will apply to both the budgets of public corporate bodies and their final statements of accounting and the state's budget and its final statement of accounting.

Chapter Eight: Control Bodies

Article 79. All the state's revenues and expenditures will be under subsequent control and all the state's liquid and nonliquid funds will be controlled to ascertain the good use of these funds and their preservation. An annual report will be submitted on the matter to the head of the Council of Ministers. The law will define the competent control body and its obligations and prerogatives.

Article 80. The government bodies will be under control to ascertain the good performance of the administration and the implementation of the statutes. Financial and administrative offenses will be investigated and an annual report will be submitted on the matter to the head of the Council of Ministers. The law will define the competent body in charge of this and its obligations and prerogatives.

Chapter Nine: General Provisions

Article 81. The implementation of this law will not prejudice the treaties and agreements signed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with international bodies and organizations.

Article 82. Without violating the contents of Article 7 of this law, no provision of this law whatsoever can be suspended unless it is temporary, such as in a period of war or during the declaration of a state of emergency. This will be in accordance with the terms of the law.

Article 83. This law will be amended only in the same way it was announced.

Crown Prince 'Abdallah Retains Post

LD0103215192 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1608 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Mar (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has issued a royal decree, the text of which follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate

No. A/93

Date: 1 March 1992

With the help of Almighty God

We, Fahd Bin-'Abd-al—Aziz al Sa'ud, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

According to the requirements of public interest, and after taking cognisance of Paragraph (D) of Article 5 of the Basic Law of Government issued by Royal Decree No. A/90 dated 1 March 1992,

We have ordered the following:

First: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, crown prince and deputy chairman of the Council of ministers, is to continue as commander of the National Guard.

Second: The chairman of the Council of Ministers is to implement this order.

Shura Council Statute Decree

LD0103212292 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Mar (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, today issued a royal decree embodying the Shura Council Statute. The following is the text of the decree:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Number A/91

Date: 27/8/1412 of the Hegira (corresponding to 1 March 1992)

With God's help, we, Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

In compliance with the saying of God Almighty: "Consult them on matters;" His saying: "Their affairs are carried out in consultation among themselves;" in emulation of the Prophet of God, God's prayers and peace be upon him in consulting his companions; in accordance with the dictates of the public interest, and after taking cognizance of the Shura Council statute issued by royal decree in 1347 of the hegira [as received—corresponding to the year beginning 20 June 1928], we decree the following:

1. The issuance of the Shura Council statute in the attached form.

2. This statute shall replace the Shura Council statute of 1347, and the affairs of this council shall be organized by a royal decree.

3. All statutes, orders, and regulations at the time this statute comes into force shall remain valid until amended to comply with this statute.

4. This statute shall come into force within a maximum period of six months from the date of its issue.

5. This statute shall be published in the official gazette.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

The Shura Council Statute

Article 1

In accordance with the words of Almighty God: "It was by some mercy of God that thou was gentle to them; had you been harsh and hard of heart, they would have scattered from about thee. So pardon them and pray forgiveness for them, and take counsel with them in the affair; and when thou art resolved, put thy trust in God; for surely God loves those who put their trust." In accordance with the words of Almighty God: "And those who answer their Lord and perform the prayer, their affairs being counsel between them, and they expend of that We have provided them."

Following the prophet of God, may the prayers and blessings of God be upon him in consulting his companions and in inciting the ummah to engage in consultations, the Shura Council is created. It carries out the tasks entrusted to it in accordance with this statute and the basic law of government, with commitment to the Book of God and the tradition of His prophet, and in maintaining the ties of brotherhood and cooperation in kindness and piety.

Article 2

The Shura Council is founded on adherence to God's bonds and commitment to the sources of Islamic jurisprudence. The council members will be keen to serve the public interest, preserve the unity of the jama'a [religious term meaning group of Muslims], the entity of the state, and the interests of the ummah.

Article 3

The Shura Council is composed of a chairman and 60 members chosen by the king from among scholars and men of knowledge and expertise. Their rights and duties and all their affairs are defined by a royal decree.

Article 4

A member of the Shura Council must meet the following conditions:

a) He must be a Saudi national and residing in Saudi Arabia.

b) He must be known to be good and competent.

c) He must be no less than 30 years old.

Article 5

A member of the Shura Council may submit an application to be relieved of membership on the council to the chairman of the council, and the latter will submit this to the king.

Article 6

If a member of the Shura Council fails to carry out the duties of his work, he should be investigated and tried in accordance with the rules and measures to be issued by royal decree.

Article 7

If the post of a Shura Council member becomes vacant for any reason, the king chooses the person to replace him and issues a royal decree in this connection.

Article 8

A member of the Shura Council is not allowed to use his membership for his own interests.

Article 9

It is not permitted to combine membership of the Shura Council with any other government post or to manage any company unless the king sees fit that there is a need for this.

Article 10

The chairman, his deputy, and the secretary general of the Shura Council are appointed and relieved of their posts by royal decrees; and their salaries, rights, duties, and all issues are defined by royal decree.

Article 11

Before beginning their duties on the council, the chairman, members, and secretary general of the Shura Council shall take the following oath before the King: "I swear by God Almighty to be loyal to my religion, then to my King and my country; I swear not to divulge any state secrets; I swear to protect its interests and its systems, and to carry out my duties with sincerity, integrity, loyalty, and justice."

Article 12

Riyadh is the headquarters of the Shura Council. The council may meet another place inside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia if the king deems this necessary.

Article 13

The period of the Shura Council will be four hegira years starting from the date specified in the royal decree issued concerning its establishment. A new council will be formed at least two months before the end of its predecessor's term. In the event of the term ending before the formation of a new council, the outgoing council will continue to function until a new council is formed. When a new council is formed new members must be selected whose number must not be less than half of the total number of council members.

Article 14

The king or whoever deputizes for him will annually deliver a royal speech at the Shura Council on the state's domestic and foreign policy.

Article 15

The Shura Council will express opinions on the general policy of the state referred to it by the Council of Ministers. The Shura Council may do the following in particular:

a) Discuss the general plan of economic and social development, and express opinion regarding it.

b) Study international laws, charters, treaties, agreements, and concessions, and make appropriate suggestions regarding them.

c) Interpret laws.

d) Discuss annual reports submitted by ministries and other government bodies, and make appropriate suggestions regarding them.

Article 16

The Shura Council's meeting will not be regarded as a quorum without the attendance of at least two-thirds of its members, including the chairman or whoever deputizes for him. Decisions will not be valid unless they are approved by a majority of the council.

Article 17

The decisions of the Shura Council will be submitted to the chairman of the Council of Ministers who will refer them to the Council of Ministers for deliberation. If the views of both councils are in agreement, the decisions will be issued with the king's consent; if the views differ, the king has the right to decide what he deems fit.

Article 18

International treaties, agreements, orders, and consessions are issued and amended by royal decrees after being studied by the Shura Council.

Article 19:

The Shura Council forms from among its members the specialized commitees necessary to exercise its jurisdiction. It can form special committees from among its members to discuss any question on its agenda.

Article 20

The committees of the Shura Council may enlist the help of anyone other than members of the council with the consent of the chairman of the council.

Article 21

The Shura Council has a general body consisting of the chairman of the council, his two deputies, and the heads of the specialized committees.

Article 22

The chairman of the Shura Council has to submit to the chairman of the Council of Ministers the requests to summon any government official to meetings of the Shura Council when it discusses matters relating to that official's jurisdiction. The official will have the right to debate but not the right to vote.

Article 23

Every 10 members of the Shura Council have the right to propose a new draft law or amendment to an executive law and submit it to the chairman of the Shura Council. The chairman should submit the proposal to the king.

Article 24

The chairman of the Shura Council should submit a request to the prime minister with regard to providing the council with the statements and documents in the possession of the government apparatus which the council believes necessary to facilitate its work.

Article 25

The chairman of the Shura Council will submit an annual report to the king on its work in accordance with the council internal list.

Article 26

Civil service systems apply to the employees of the council's apparatus unless the internal list states otherwise.

Article 27

The Shura Council is to be allocated a special budget by the king which will be spent in accordance with the rules to be issued by royal decree.

Article 28

The Shura Council's financial matters, financial control, and final statement of accounts are to be organized in accordance with special rules to be issued by royal decree.

Article 29

The internal list of the Shura Council defines the prerogatives of the chairman of the Shura Council, his deputy, the council's secretary general, the council's apparatus, methods of holding its sessions, the management of its work, and the work of its committees and method of voting. The list also organizes the rules of debate, ethics of responses, and other such matters that may provide restraint and discipline within the council, for it should exercise its prerogatives for the good of the Kingdom and the probity of its people. This list is to be issued by royal decree.

Article 30

The amendment of this law can only be carried out through the method by which it was published.

Decree on Regions Statute

LD0103221192 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1645 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Mar (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, today issued a royal decree on the regions statute. Here is the text of the decree:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

No. A/92

Date: 1 March 1992

With the help of Almighty God, we, Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in accordance with what is required by public interest, and out of the wish to realize the objectives of the state to improve and promote the quality of performance in government organs in various regions in line with the development achieved by the country,

we decree the following:

1. The regions statute is issued in the following formula.

2. This statute shall be in force within a year of its publication.

3. This statute is published in the official gazette.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate,

Regions Statute

Article 1

This statute is aimed at improving the level of administrative work and development in the regions of the Kingdom. It is also aimed at maintaining security and order and at guaranteeing the rights and liberties of citizens in the framework of the Islamic shari'ah.

Article 2

The regions of the Kingdom and the headquarter of the emirate of each region are organized by royal decree upon the recommendation of the interior minister.

Article 3

Administratively, each region consists of a number of governorates, districts, and centers created thus after taking into account demographic, geographic, security, and environmental conditions, and communications. The governorate is organized by royal decree on the recommendation of the interior minister. The districts and centers are created and linked by a decision from the interior minister upon the recommendation of the amir of the region.

Article 4

Every region shall have an amir with the rank of minister, and with a deputy of distinguished grade to assist him in his work and to deputize for him in his absence. The amir and his deputy are appointed and relieved from their posts by royal decree upon the recommendation of the interior minister.

Article 5

The amir of the region is accountable to the interior minister.

Article 6

The amir and his deputy, before taking up their responsibilities, shall take the following oath before the king: "I swear by Almighty God to be loyal to my religion and then to my king and my country, not to disclose any state secrets, to protect its interests and laws, and to discharge my duties with honesty, trust, loyalty, and justice".

Article 7

Every amir will assume the administration of the region in accordance with the general policy of the state and in accordance with the rules of this statute and other statutes and motions. He must in particular:

a) Maintain security, order, and stability and take the necessary measures to this end, in accordance with regulations and motions.

b) Carry out judicial judgments after they become final.

c) Guarantee the rights and liberties of individuals and take no measure that would harm these rights and liberties, except within the limits decided by the judiciary and the law.

d) Work for the social, economic, and urban development of the region.

e) Work for the development of public services in the region and toward promoting them.

f) Administer governorates, districts, and localities; control the work of governors, district directors, and heads of localities; and make sure that they are discharging their duties in a proper manner.

g) Protect the assets and properties of the state, and prevent any transgressions against them.

h) Supervise the state organs and their employees in the region to ensure that they carry out their duties well, with all trust and loyalty, taking into account the ties of the employees of ministries and various services in the region with their competent authorities.

i) Have direct contact with ministers and heads of services; discuss the affairs of the region with them in order to improve the performance of the organs under his authority; and inform the interior minister about this.

j) Present annual reports to the interior minister about the level of performance of public services in the region and other affairs of the region, as defined by the executory motion of this statute.

Article 8

An annual meeting of the amirs of regions is to take place under the chairmanship of the interior minister to discuss issues related to regions. The interior minister will submit a report on this matter to the president [as received] of the Council of Ministers.

Article 9

A meeting of the the governors of the governorates and directors of districts is to take place at least twice a year under the chairmanship of the amir of the region to discuss regional matters. The amir will submit a report on this issue to the interior minister.

Article 10

a) For each region, one under secretary or more is to be appointed with a rank of not less than 14 [as received] in accordance with a decision by the Council of Ministers based upon a recommendation from the interior minister.

b) Each governorate has a governor with a rank of not less than 14. He is to be appointed by the president of the Council of Ministers upon a recommendation from the interior minister. The governorate has an under secretary whose rank is not less than 12 and is to be appointed by the interior minister upon a recommendation from the amir of the region.

c) Each district has a director whose rank is not less than 8. He is appointed by the interior minister following a recommendation from the amir of the region.

d) Each locality has a chairman whose rank is not less than 5. He is appointed by the amir of the region upon a recommendation from the governor of the governorate.

Article 11

Amirs of regions, governors of governorates, administrators of districts, and heads of localities have to reside within their work area, and they must not leave the domain of their work except by permission of their immediate superior.

Article 12

Governors of governorates, administrators of districts, and heads of localities will assume their duties in the administrative domain of their areas and within the limits of the authorities invested in them.

Article 13

The governors of governorates must administer their governorates within the limits of the authorities stipulated in Article 7, with the exception of what is stated in Clauses (f), (i), and (j) of the aforementioned article. They must monitor the work of the district administrators and heads of localities who are their subordinates, ascertain that they are competent to carry out their duties, and submit regular reports to the amir of the region on efficiency in the performance of public services and other governorate affairs as defined in the executive bill of this statute.

Article 14

Every ministry and government concern which provides services in the region must appoint a director of their bodies in the region whose grade must not be lower than 12, who will be directly linked to the central body, and who must coordinate with the amir of the region in the area of his work.

Article 15

A council to be called the Council of the Region and based at the headquarters of the region's amirate will be set up in every region.

Article 16

The Council of the Region will consist of:

a) The amir of the region as chairman of the council.

b) The deputy amir of the region as deputy chairman of the council.

c) The commissioner [wakil] of the region and the governors of the governorates.

d) Heads of government bodies in the region which will be specified by an order of the chairman of the Council of Ministers based on the recommendation of the interior minister.

e) Not less than 10 people of learning, experience, and competence from the public will be appointed by order of the chairman of the Council of Ministers on the basis of nominations by the amir of the region and with the approval of the interior minister. Their term of membership will be four years, subject to renewal.

Article 17

A member of the council must meet the following requirements:

a) To be of Saudi nationality by birth and upbringing.

b) To be of recognized rectitude and competence.

c) To be no younger than 30.

d) To be a resident of his region.

Article 18

A member is to submit proposals in writing to the chairman of the region's council on matters coming under the council's jurisdiction. The chairman is to

include every proposal on the council agenda with a view to putting it forward for examination.

Article 19

A member of a region's council cannot attend deliberations of the council or of its committees if the topic presented concerns a personal matter, a matter pertaining to another person whose testimony is not accepted, or to a person for whom the member is acting as guardian, proxy, or representative.

Article 20

Should the appointed member wish to resign, he is to submit a request to that effect to the interior minister through the amir of the region concerned. The resignation will not be considered valid until the prime minister has approved it on the recommendation of the interior minister.

Article 21

Outside the cases mentioned in this statute, an appointed member cannot be dismissed during his term except by order from the prime minister, acting on a recommendation from the interior minister.

Article 22

Should a vacancy arise for any specific reason, a replacement is to be designated within three months of the vacancy. The new member will then fill the vacancy for the rest of his predecessor's period, in accordance with Clause (e) of Article 16 of this law.

Article 23

The regional council is responsible for studying any point which may improve the standard of services in the region. Its prerogatives are particularly as follows:

a) To define the needs of the region and propose their inclusion in the state's development plan.

b) To define the useful projects according to a scale of priorities and to propose their endorsement in the state's annual budget.

c) To study plans of organizations of the regions' cities and towns and to follow up their implementation once they are endorsed.

d) To follow up aspects related to the region vis-a-vis the development plan while observing balance and coordination in this matter.

Article 24

The regional council will table any proposal involving general useful works related to citizens of the region, and it will encourage the citizens' contributions in this regard. The proposal should be submitted to the interior minister.

Article 25

The regional council is prohibited from looking into any subject outside the scope of its prerogatives as stipulated for it according to this law. Its decisions will be null and void if it exceeds this. The interior minister will issue a decision in this matter.

Article 26

The regional council will hold an ordinary session every three months at the invitation of its chairman. The chairman may call for an extraordinary meeting if he deems this fit. The session will include the meeting or meetings held following one invitation, and the session may be concluded only after all the points on the agenda have been examined and discussed.

Article 27

Attendance at the meetings of the regional council is considered a function-related duty for members mentioned in Clauses (c) and (d) of Article 16 of this statute. They must attend in person or have a person attend in lieu of them in the event of their being away from work. As for the members mentioned in Clause (e) of the article in question, the absence of a member from two successive sessions without an acceptable excuse is reason for dismissal from the council. In this case, this member must not be reappointed to the council prior to two years from the date of his dismissal.

Article 28

The meetings of the council will only be a quorum if at least two-thirds of the members attend them. It will issue its decisions with an absolute majority of votes by members of the council. If vote is equal then the side with whom the chairman votes wins.

Article 29

The regional council must, if need be, form special committees to examine any decree falling within the scope of its prerogatives. It may enlist the help of experienced people and specialists. It may also invite anyone it likes to attend the council meetings and to take part in the discussion without having the right to vote.

Article 30

The interior minister must summon the council to convene under his chairmanship at any venue he chooses. The minister also chairs any meeting he attends.

Article 31

The regional council may convene only at the request of its chairman or his deputy, or by order from the interior minister.

Article 32

The chairman of the council must submit a copy of the reports to the interior minister.

Article 33

The chairman of the regional council must inform the ministries and government departments about the resolutions concerning them which are passed by the council.

Article 34

The ministries and government departments must comply with the resolutions passed by the regional council in accordance with the contents of Clauses (a) and (b) of Article 23 of this law. If a ministry or a government department sees fit not to agree with a resolution passed by the regional council on what has been mentioned, they must clarify the reasons for doing so to the regional Council. If the regional council is not convinced that the reasons given by the ministry or government department are suitable, it will refer the case to the interior minister, who will then refer it to the chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Article 35

Every ministry or department with services in the region will notify the regional council about the projects decided for the region in the budget as soon as it is issued. It will also notify the council about the development plan decided upon for the region.

Article 36

Every minister and head of service may seek the views of the regional council about any subject connected with his jurisdiction in the region. The council must offer its opinion in this regard.

Article 37

Upon the recommendation of the interior minister the Council of Ministers will decide the rewards for the chairman of the regional council and its members, taking into consideration the costs of transportation and residence.

Article 38

The regional council can only be dissolved by a decision from the chairman of the Council of Ministers upon a recommendation from the interior minister. New members should be appointed within three months from the date of dissolution. During the period when the council is dissolved the members mentioned in clauses (c) and (d) of Article 16 under the chairmanship of the amir of the region will exercise the powers of the council.

Article 39

The regional council has a secretariat (residing) in the region's emirate which will undertake the preparation of its agenda, extend invitations at the appropriate time, record the discussions that take place during the meetings, count votes, prepare the minutes of the meetings, draft the decisions, carry out the necessary work to organize the council's meetings, and record its decisions.

Article 40

The interior minister is to issue the necessary bills to implement this statute.

King Addresses Nation on New Laws

LD0103182192 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1355 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 1 Mar (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, made the following statement to his brothers and sons the citizens on the occasion of releasing the new basic statute of governing, the statute for the Consultative Council, and the statute on the regions,

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thanks be to God, the lord of all the universe, and prayers and peace be upon the most noble of prophets, our Lord Muhammad, and upon all his family and companions.

Brother citizens: If God intended good to come to some people he would guide them to what is better for them. God bestowed on us countless bounties, and the greatest of them all is that of Islam, because it is the religion to which we adhere and from which we shall not stray. We will be guided and be pleased by it because Almighty God has said this and said the same to His prophet. The facts of history and reality are the best witness to this. Muslims are happy with the Islamic shari'ah because it became their arbiter in their lives and all their affairs.

In modern history the first Saudi state was established, based on Islam, more than two and one-half centuries ago when two pious reformists—Imam Muhammad Bin Sa'ud and Shaykh Muhammad Bin 'Abd al-Wahhab, may God have mercy on their souls—agreed on that. This state was established on a clear program of politics, rule, a call for Islam, and sociology. This program is Islam—belief and shari'ah. [passage omitted]

The application of this program continued in all subsequent stages as succeeding rulers continued to abide by the Islamic shari'ah. This was by the grace of God who grants such graces to whom He wishes. This continuous upholding of the program of Islam is based on three facts: the fact that the basis of the program of Islam is fixed and is not subject to change or alteration [passage omitted]. Also, the fact that the upholding of the program should be continuous. [passage omitted] Third, the fact that the rulers of this state should be faithful to their Islam under all circumstances and conditions. [passage omitted]

This program could be summed up in establishing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the following foundations:

1. The unification faith, which makes the people devote worship to God alone, without a partner, and live strongly and honorably.

2. The code of Islam, which preserves the rights and bloods, organizes the relationship between the governor

and the governed, controls transactions between members of the community, and safeguards general security.

3. Adopting the Islamic call and spreading it, because calling for God is among the Islamic state's greatest and most important responsibilities.

4. The founding of a suitable "general environment" free of objectionable actions and deviations which helps guide people toward honesty and righteousness; this mission is a responsibility to support right and shun evil.

5. Achieving the "unity" of faith which is the basis of political, social, and geographical unity.

6. Adopting the means of progress and achieving an "overall awakening" which directs the peoples' lives and their livelihood, and looks after their interests in the light of Islam's guidance and its standards.

7. Achieving "shura," which Islam has ordered and praises whoever takes it up, for Islam ranks it among the qualities of the believers.

8. The two holy mosques shall remain chaste for visitors and worshippers—as they were intended by God—far away from all that which hinders the performance of the minor and major pilgrimage and worship in the best way. The Kingdom shall carry out this duty in fulfilment of God's right and to serve the Islamic nation.

9. To defend the faith and the holy shrines, the homeland, the people, and the state.

These are the great bases on which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been established. The development of modern life necessitated the emergence of major rules from this trend during the era of [the late] King 'Abd-al-'Aziz. In view of the evolution of the state and the growth in its duties, King 'Abd- al-'Aziz—may God rest his soul—in the year 1373 A.H. [year beginning 10 September 1953] issued his decree forming a Council of Ministers which is in operation to this day, in accordance with its statute issued in the year 1373 A.H. and the amendments which followed. This program is still in force to this day, with God's grace and guidance.

Therefore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has never known what is termed a "constitutional vacuum." The concept of a "constitutional vacuum" from the standpoint of the text is that the state has no guiding principles, or binding bases, or reference sources in the sphere of legislation and in regulating relations. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has never witnessed such a phenomenon in its entire history. Throughout its march it has ruled according to the guided principles, obliging bases, and the clear fundamentals to which judges, ulema, and all those employed by the state refer. The whole state apparatus currently functions according to statutes which stem from the Islamic shari'ah and are regulated by it.

Therefore, the fact that we are today enacting the following statutes: the basic statute of governing; the statute of the Consultative Council; and the statute for the regions, in new forms. These have not been forced by a vacuum. These three statutes are aimed at strengthening something which exists and which formulates a de facto matter which is in operation. These statutes will be subject to changes and developments according to the requirements of the Kingdom's circumstances and interests. [passage omitted]

The pillar and source of the basic statute [of government] is the Islamic shari'ah, as this statute has been guided by the Islamic shari'ah in defining the nature, objectives, and the responsibilities of the state, and in defining the relationship between the ruler and the ruled, which is founded on brotherhood, exchanging advice, friendship, and cooperation.

The relationship between citizens and those who are in charge of their affairs in this country is founded on firm bases and deep-rooted traditions of love, compassion, justice, mutual respect, and loyalty stemming from the free and deep-rooted conviction in the hearts of the sons of this country through sucessive generations. There is no difference between a ruler and one who is ruled; they are all equal before God, and they are all equal in the love of this homeland and their eagerness to preserve its safety, unity, pride, and progress. The one in charge has rights as well as duties, and the relationship between the ruler and the ruled is first and foremost and in the final analysis governed by the law of God, as provided in the holy book of God and the tradition of His prophet, may the prayers and blessings of God be upon him.

The basic statute of government is inspired by these principles, and it seeks to expand them in the relationship between ruler and ruled, with a commitment to all that has been brought about by our true religion in this respect.

As to the Shura Council statute, it is based on Islam in both name and content, in response to the saying of God Almighty: "And those who responded to God, and performed prayers, and held consultations among themselves, and spend what we have made available to them." [passage omitted] The new statute of the Consultative Council provides for a modernization and development of the existing system through bolstering the council's framework, and means and methods with more efficiency, organization, and vitality, in order to achieve the desired objectives. The capabilities to be embodied in this council will be carefully chosen in order to be able to contribute to the development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its progress, taking into consideration the public interest of the homeland and the citizens. While the Consultative Council undertakes, God willing, the general consultation at a state level, we must not ignore the currently practiced consultations within the state's organs through the specialized councils and committees. These structures ought to be active so that their work will complement that of the general Consultative Council.

The country has recently witnessed tremendous developments in various areas. These developments have called for a renewal of the general administrative system in the country. To meet this need and interest, the statute of regions will allow more organized action through an appropriate administrative leap, and will elevate the level of administrative rule in the regions of the Kingdom.

O compatriots, these statutes have been laid down after a meticulous and patient study carried out by an elite group of learned men of opinion and experience, taking into consideration the distinguished position of the Kingdom on the Islamic scene and its traditions, customs, and its social, cultural, and civilized conditions. Therefore, these statutes spring from our reality, taking into consideration our traditions and customs, and adhering to our true (Islamic) religion.

We are confident that these statutes will, with God's help, assist the state in realizing all that which the Saudi citizen aspires to: good and progress for his homeland and his Arab and Islamic nation. The Saudi citizen is the basic pivot for the advancement and development of his homeland, and we shall not spare any effort in doing everything to ensure his happiness and reassurance.

The world, which is following the development and progress of this country, greatly admires its internal policy, which safeguards the citizen's security and stability, as well as its rational foreign policy, which is keen on establishing relations with other countries, and which contributes to all that which bolsters the pillars of peace in this world. [passage omitted]

The governors adhere to the Islamic line, the officials in the government adhere to it, and the people adhere to it in their transactions and life. Islam is a way of life and (there is) no forfeiting of what is in God's book, what has been confirmed by his Prophet, or what Muslims have unanimously agreed on. Our constitution in the Kingdom is the book of gracious God, which is immune from any vanity, and His messenger's sunna [tradition], who does not speak irresponsibly. Whatever we disagree on, we refer it back to these people. They are the arbiters on all statutes issued by the state. [passage omitted]

Citizens, with the help of God, we will continue with our Islamic line, cooperating with those who want good for Islam and Muslims, keen to strengthen the religion of God and the call for it; eager to ensure progress for this country, and happiness for its people. We beg Almighty God to bestow on our people and our Arab and Islamic nation all good, righteousness, progress, prosperity, and happiness. Thanks be to God who bestows everything righteous.

Foreign Ministry Rejects 'Hasty' UN Statement

JN2902193392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Feb (INA)—Commenting on yesterday's statement by the UN Security Council, a Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated the following:

Once again the Security Council issues a hasty statement against Iraq. Blind accusations and slanders were made against Iraq without objective examination and without listening to Iraq's point of view.

Like other statements, this one shows clearly how the United States has turned the Security Council, its methods of action, its resolutions, and its statements into cheap political tools aimed at fulfilling tendentious and rancorous imperialist objectives.

The spokesman said that yesterday's statement is full of falsehoods and slanders and portrays Iraq's position in an incorrect and tendentious manner. Iraq rejects the conclusions introduced into the statement through pressure from the United States and the agents that serve its objectives.

The spokesman added: Iraq explained its position to Ambassador Ekeus in an objective and scientific manner and emphasized to him that the Iraqi political and technical delegation scheduled to visit New York soon will explain Iraq's position on a number of pending issues.

Nevertheless, the United States sought to fabricate a tense atmosphere before the arrival of the delegation with a view toward sabotaging and distorting Iraq's stand before it is put before the Security Council.

The spokesman emphasized that the Iraqi delegation will explain Iraq's position to the Security Council in a comprehensive and objective manner with a view to exposing the lies and slanders being promoted against Iraq. The spokesman also emphasized that Iraq believes in the fairness of its legitimate rejection of the method of threats and repeated warnings.

'Aziz Criticizes 'New Allegations'

JN0203081492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1921 GMT 1 Mar 92

["Full recording" of interview with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz by unidentified Baghdad television correspondent in Baghdad; date not given—Iraqi television interview was broadcast 1 March]

[Text] [Correspondent] Ladies and gentlemen, good evening. Two days ago, on 28 February, the UN Security Council issued a statement from the chair which included new allegations and threats against Iraq. We have with us in the studio Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. We will ask him about the circumstances surrounding the Council's statement.

['Aziz] The statement issued by the UN Security Council on 28 February was not the first; numerous statements and resolutions have been passed before, and these are known to all. But this particular statement has a background which I can call special. It is worthwhile to explain the background and circumstances that led to the issuance of this statement so that the picture may become clear—the picture of U.S. arbitrariness, the picture of lying about and slandering Iraq and the injustice inflicted through this on our people as a consequence of this tendentious U.S. policy.

You know that the Security Council last April issued Resolution 687, which was unprecedented in history. It is an unfair resolution, and this fact is known throughout the world. We have stated our position on this resolution in a clear letter sent at the time by the foreign minister. But, on account of the threats that our country faced, we said that despite our principled position on that resolution we had no choice but to accept its provisions. So, the process of inspection began, and this is the subject of the last statement: the implementation of the portions relating to the destruction of weapons banned by Resolution 687 and related equipment, and the tasks of the inspection teams. Problems contrived by U.S. agents in the inspection teams—David Kay—cropped up; known stories, the facts of which have been presented to the people here in Iraq and around the world. In recent months, however, during July, August, and the months that followed, it has become increasingly clear that our procedures concerning the implementation are proceeding according to practical, systematic contexts. Inspection teams could not find pretexts through which they could trigger storms and fabricate crises. As time passed and the facts of the U.S. aggression against Iraq—its causes, its real intentions—emerged, and big and clear facts came to light that the United States was determined to strike Iraq and the components of its revival and progress regardless of the issue of Kuwait, there began to appear in the international community clear calls for an easing of the economic embargo against Iraq. Some have demanded a complete lifting of the embargo because they believe the pretexts for maintaining it are no longer valid, and others call for an easing of it.

In late November and early December 1991 the Nonaligned members of the UN Security Council began to make moves to ease the embargo. They made proposals to ease the procedures concerning Iraq's purchase of certain items of a civilian nature. Aside from food and medicine, for any civilian item purchased by Iraq, the country or party exporting that item to Iraq has to get the approval of the Sanctions Committee. These included simple items—soap and agricultural equipment, for example—as well as many items used for civilian purposes: chlorine to purify water, and other items of the sort. These items would be presented to the Sanctions Committee. The U.S. or the British envoy would refuse this, without giving any reason, and thereby preventing the deal. This is a known fact and has been widely publicized.

The Nonaligned members of the Security Council made a proposal to expand the list, which was based on UN reports: a report by UN envoy Ahtisaari, who came to Iraq immediately after the aggression; and a report by Saidruddin Aga Khan, which stated that Iraq needs a series, or a list, of civilian items for the people so that Iraqi civilian life can operate normally. At the same time certain states began to move toward unfreezing Iraqi assets in their countries. The UN Security Council informed these countries that it does not object to unfreezing the Iraqi funds and said that each country is free to decide whatever it wishes on this issue.

Thus, certain countries began to take action. Germany, for example, agreed to unfreeze around 88 million Deutsche marks to enable us to purchase food and medical supplies, and we indeed struck deals to purchase these items from Germany. Italy also took action and unfroze a simple amount. As I said, the talk about the embargo and the need to lift or ease it began to grow in the Security Council and in the UN corridors, and began to be raised by the world media and international organizations and figures. I think that you are aware of this. During that period, in December and early January, we in the leadership thought about drafting a letter to be sent by the foreign minister to explain everything that has been implemented as part of Resolution 687, for the Americans and their allies in the UN Security Council and agents in the inspection teams and the Special Committee kept saying that Iraq is still not abiding by so and so and is still not implementing so and so.

[Correspondent] How true is this allegation?

['Aziz] Here lies the allegation. The UN Security Council resolutions stipulate certain measures, some of which can be implemented within two weeks, some within three months, and some within six months, each according to its own nature. Certain measures need to be studied and reviewed, both by us and by them. The plan that they followed was not to mention the measures that have been implemented—they would impose a blackout on this fact—and concentrate only on allegations that Iraq has not implemented such and such a thing. The majority of these allegations are false. In practice, what has not been implemented was not measures that Iraq refused to implement but rather measures that require time. Furthermore, some of these measures the United Nations has to implement itself.

[Correspondent] So Iraq does not want to go back on its commitments.

['Aziz] Never. The policy we followed was to implement, objectively and precisely, the measures that were imposed on us in order to deprive the United States, its allies, and the tendentious quarters in the UN agencies of any pretext for maintaining the embargo.

The foreign minister's letter encompassed everything that had been accomplished in terms of implementing the provisions of Resolution 687, and a great deal had been accomplished. At the end of the letter, there was an invitation... [changes thought] the foreign minister said that this was what had been accomplished and that we ask the Security Council to send a team of members who do not harbor tendentious intentions toward Iraq. This mission would come to Iraq to sit with us and review this report, or to...

[Correspondent, interrupting] To verify how far Iraq is complying with its obligations.

['Aziz] Yes, to verify. If Ekeus, for example, or an American head of a mission who is a CIA agent goes back and says that he has been to Iraq and that he wanted to do this and that but Iraq refused, or Iraq did not implement so and so, then these are accusations and fabrications. Therefore, we wanted a neutral or an unbiased side assigned by the Security Council to come so that we could present the facts to it. Where there is an accusation we would explain our position. Our position was strong and still is very strong. On such an issue we can, provided the other side is conscientious and equitable, prove that the accusations and fabrication are baseless. We also said to either send a mission to Iraq for verification or agree to receive a high-level political and technical delegation that would go to the Security Council and explain Iraq's position on implementing the provisions of Resolution 687.

When this Iraqi proposal was presented at the council, some council members considered it a legitimate, pioneering, logical, and practical proposal. When America and its allies realized that there was a growing call to lift the economic embargo on Iraq, and when they saw that there was a daily growing and widening understanding of Iraq's position before and after the aggression, they began to prepare to thwart the Iraqi initiative. They were unable to reject the proposal. They said okay, we will study this issue and consider inviting the Iraqi delegation to come to the council.

During this period, before the issue of inviting the Iraqi delegation and setting a date for its arrival was discussed, we heard on the news that Ekeus, the head of the special committee supervising the destruction of weapons and the provision in Resolution 687 on weapons and equipment used to manufacture weapons, and who had visited Iraq and was here in the fall, had met with Scowcroft, advisor to the U.S. president on national security affairs. Ekeus is a UN employee and is assigned by the Security Council and the UN secretary general to head the special committee. What is the relationship between Ekeus and Scowcroft? A statement was issued saying that Scowcroft supports... [changes thought] that the United States supports the work of the special committee. The statement also included threats and fabrications against Iraq.

[Correspondent] Was there a problem?

['Aziz] Absolutely not. There is absolutely no problem. The last inspection team that came to Iraq carried out its work in a regular and correct manner. For our part, we have provided all facilities to these teams in a proper manner. The team left Iraq and presented a positive

report. The team was headed by a senior official of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, which is responsible for following up the nuclear sector. For no reason or any problem whatsoever, in February the Security Council president, who is an American, asked Ekeus to present a report to the Security Council on the observations of the special committee. Ekeus went to the Security Council and presented a biased report. Everything that was accomplished between April and February was summed up in one line. He said that despite some progress, Iraq is this and that—a series of accusations, fabrications, and fallacies about the facts and events.

[Correspondent] Did he not explain what he meant by despite [word indistinct]?

['Aziz] He did not. He did not explain the progress made. What has been achieved is something great, and I will explain it. We told Ekeus when he came to Baghdad: You did not mention to the UN Security Council what has been achieved, which is something essential concerning the issue, and you focused only on the negative aspects. This is slander and a distortion of the facts.

As usual, what Ekeus said was repeated by the Americans and the British. Without any reason they issued a UN Security Council statement on 19 February which said that Iraq has not fullfilled its obligations under Resolutions 687 and 787 [word indistinct] on this basis Ekeus should be immediately sent to Baghdad to deliver a message to the Iraqi Government.

Nothing warrants the use [word indistinct] and such language in dealing with the issue, particularly that we have explained [words indistinct] New York and discuss all these [words indistinct] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, and several experts and those concerned with the matter to become acquainted with the nature of his mission. He began repeating the same accusations and the same points that were mentioned in the UN Security Council statement. [Words indistinct] on the second day I met with him. The foreign minister, the minister of state for foreign affairs, and all the experts attended. He was there with his aides. We were there with all the documents, statements, and information [word indistinct]. He repeated what he had already said during his meeting with the minister of state the day before. We told him: Let us now dot the I's. Let us explain our stand.

Resolution 687 imposes on Iraq the destruction of all the weapons that the resolution bans: the long-range missiles [words indistinct] chemical weapons. Were all these not destroyed? He replied in the affirmative. He said: Well [word indistinct] accusations. These are accusations. But you and the inspection teams supervised the destruction of a long list of weapons that are banned under [words indistinct]. Have you communicated this to the UN Security Council? I asked Ekeus: Have you informed the UN Security Council that Iraq no longer possesses the weapons mentioned in Resolution 687? This is important. They are talking and claim that Iraq poses a threat. These weapons threaten [words indistinct]. There is no evidence to the contrary. The concerned Iraqi officials explain our stand when accusations are reported in the press and other media without evidence, every time the inspection teams come.

This is the first part. The second part is the equipment that was used or claimed to have been used to produce [words indistinct] banned under resolution [words indistinct]. A large part of it was destroyed by the inspection teams. In abiding by the resolution, we say that these weapons were used in the nuclear field although this was for peaceful purposes [words indistinct] the resolution bans them; they were destroyed. The remaining equipment has been marked. Over the past year there has not been an establishment which they did not visit more than once—surprise visits—and they marked every piece of equipment they inspected and claimed had been used or could be used to produce weapons. [Words indistinct] therefore, Iraq possesses neither weapons nor equipment that is assumed, rightly or wrongly, to produce weapons. Some of these were destroyed, and what remains has been marked and is inoperative. Then, the basic and substantial part of Resolution 687 dealing with what they unjustly term posing a threat to security and stability in the region [words indistinct]. Why do you not say this to the UN Security Council and to the world? On the basis of this reality the UN Security Council must lift the economic embargo on Iraq because UN Security Council Resolution 687 stipulates this.

Ekeus said: We want to ascertain that Iraq will not be able to produce such weapons. [Words indistinct] Resolution 687 stipulates. We agreed to Resolution 687. We do not object to the UN Security Council verifying that Iraq now or in the future will not produce weapons which Resolution 687 views as being banned. But, explain to me how [words indistinct]. He said: We the special committee should have complete power over all that the committee believes necessary. Every piece of equipment we decide has been or will be used to produce [words indistinct].

I told him that when I met with Baker in Geneva he threatened that they would take Iraq back to the pre-industrial age. I asked him: Does the Security Council seek to prevent Iraq from producing that type of weapon?

[Correspondent, interrupting] Sir, what type of equipment did they want to be destroyed?

['Aziz] Various types of equipment used in industry. I said: Is the aim of the Security Council not to make Iraq an industrial country, in line with the Baker plan? Or, is your task not to prevent Iraq from producing the banned weapons and to verify that Iraq is following the UN Security Council resolution? If your objective is to verify that Iraq is not producing the weapons banned by the UN Security Council, then we have no objection because we abided by that resolution, and there are practical and

technical means to enable you to do so. But there is a difference between this and destroying Iraqi industries.

I told him: You are an ambassador and I am not an expert myself, but we both know, and the experts here with us know, that much—you can say almost 100 percent—of the equipment used in military industries can be used in civilian industries. The industrial firms in the United States, Britain, and France manufacture both civilian and military goods. As an example, I told him that in 1970, when I was AL-THAWRAH's chief editor, I visited a British firm to buy a newspaper press. When I entered the firm I noticed pictures and advertisements for military equipment. I asked: Are we in the right place? They said yes, the firm manufactures newspaper presses as well as various military equipment.

So I told Ekeus that they could come and verify if this equipment is used for civilian or military purposes, or for military purposes not banned by the UN Security Council resolution. I said that if you want to eliminate Iraq's industry in order to achieve the objective stated by Baker in Geneva, then this is a different matter all together. This can never be accepted by a sovereign state or by people who have a legitimate right to have civilian and unbanned military industries in order to protect themselves and their national security. Furthermore, the verification operations can be conducted without provocations or infringements on Iraq's sovereignty and the dignity of Iraq and its people.

I told him that you know that this is feasible technically. I said that we can, and that we are prepared to sit with you to review together all these issues and to agree on the steps and means that would enable you to realize the objective stipulated in the UN Security Council resolution and enable us to continue as a country which has the right to survive and have industries which it can use to meet its people's legitimate and natural needs.

At that point in time, when Ekeus came to Baghdad, an inspection team was present in Iraq. That team had routine tasks, but it also had a list of equipment which it told Iraqi officials that it wants destroyed. We told Ekeus that this is a strange and bizarre list because it includes buildings, barrels, and computers. We asked him: Why should the building be destroyed...

[Correspondent, interrupting] It can be used for civilian purposes?

['Aziz] Yes. He said because that building housed a factory to manufacture [word indistinct] missiles. We said fine, the factory to manufacture the missiles is gone, and this building is no longer used to manufacture missiles; it is finished. Then why do you want to destroy the walls and ceilings? We can use this building for any other purpose; we can use it as a warehouse to store wheat. Why do you want to destroy the computer? This computer can now be used for children's games, to keep bank accounts, and for other, various purposes, so why do you want to destroy it? It is ours, and we have paid for it.

The main link in the manufacturing of weapons no longer exists, and the complementary links, which are present in every other factory... [changes thought] it is a (?mystery) indeed. They also said that they wanted some barrels in the factory destroyed. We asked why?

We told them that these are the sorts of things about which we have to sit down together to carry out a technical and accurate review—by Iraqi technicians and your own technicians—of them.

As for the equipment that can be used only for a prohibited military purpose, we understand that we have a commitment, and we will implement that commitment. But as for any equipment that can be transformed to civilian use... [changes thought] because UN Security Council Resolution 687 permits this. The resolution states that this equipment should be destroyed, removed, or transformed, to render it harmless [preceding four words in English], which means to be used for civilian purposes. We also told Ekeus: For ten months now you have been making a complete inventory of Iraq's industry and you have visited all Iraqi installations. So give us a complete list of what you want to destroy, because things should not be left hanging in the air now that you have a full picture of the equipment.

What he should do now is to submit a complete list so that we can know what is intended to be destroyed. Does the destruction, or the control, actually seek to prevent Iraq from producing such weapons, or is the aim the destruction of Iraq's industry? The complete list will clarify the desired objective. He declined to do so. He said: We now have this list and we want to destroy what is on it.

We told him: This means that at all times, every two weeks, or every month, one of the inspection teams can come and say that this is a list and that this is another, a third, a fourth, and tenth list, thereby leaving the people with not a single piece of equipment with which they can produce milk, clothes, or any other civilian goods that we have the right to produce, not to mention military production which is not banned by the UN Security Council resolutions [words indistinct]. He refused [words indistinct].

As for the verification of information, every day you accuse Iraq of not submitting [words indistinct]. For the past 10 months you have been coming to Iraq, searching and confiscating, asking Iraqi officials questions to which the latter would reply. Iraq's officials answered every one of your questions, and you say this is not enough. If so, this operation could last for more than 100 years. Every day and every month you would come and say that what you gave me is not enough. We will give you more information, which you will also term insufficient. This means that you want to maintain a state of fabricated vagueness so that you can always go back to the UN Security Council to tell it that Iraq's cooperation

is insufficient. Therefore, the embargo should be maintained. This is not what the UN Security Council resolution is all about.

The UN Security Council resolution supposes the existence of a neutral scientific and technical action that will include all your demands and all your questions. For our part, we will discuss them in a scientific manner and determine what is required within a specific period of time. I told him that we are ready to work with you to prepare such an inventory. We will agree that within a period of two or three weeks or one month that all the questions that you claim the Iraqi side has not answered, and all the demands that you may have, will be put on paper. and we will reply to them. This is because during the meetings that used to be held between Iraq's officials and the inspection teams we used to offer all the information and data needed. When the meetings ended, the Iraqi officials would ask the inspection team members: Do you have anything else to say to us? They would say: No, we have obtained the information. They would leave for New York, however, and submit reports that [words indistinct] on paper, in clear technical language as to what Iraq should submit. We are ready to provide you with all the necessary information that has anything to do with the issue.

During the meeting he did not deny in front of me, or in front of my brothers the ministers of foreign affairs and minister of state, he did not deny the fact that all the weapons were destroyed. This is a fact, and Ekeus cannot deny this in my presence. All the equipment has been identified. Some of it was destroyed during the aggression; they destroyed other items; and the remaining part has been identified and earmarked. Such items are marked, thereby preventing us from using them for any purpose that is banned. But, he did not agree to submit a complete list of the equipment that they want to destroy and he did not agree to the principle that we should hold a meeting. He was vague and sought to maneuver. At the last meeting I told him: You define your stand, and we will define our stand in a paper. You and the minister of state and the experts will then meet and we will try to reach common grounds. They met with the minister of state and the experts for several hours. He refused to reach an agreement on common grounds. What happened is that he defined his stand in a paper and we did the same in another. We sent the paper in which we defined our stand in the form of a letter by the foreign minister to the UN secretary general and the president of the Security Council. Any objective observer who studies it will find it to be a positive, clear, and scientific stand. At the end of this paper we mentioned that if there are other matters, particularly those dealing with Resolutions 707 and [word indistinct] the delegation that will arrive in New York will clarify [words indistinct].

Ekeus went back to New York. He submitted a report containing the paper he had prepared and the one prepared by the Iraqi side. However, he made conclusions, and his conclusions were portrayed in a tendentious manner. Instead of saying that Iraq has demonstrated a readiness to cooperate in these fields and that the Iraqi delegation will come to New York to complete discussions about the issue, he raised many questions and cast doubts about Iraq's stand in a distorted and clearly tendentious manner.

On the basis of this report [words indistinct] the U.S. president of the Security Council called for a UN Security Council session to discuss the report. At the same he insisted on enforcing the list of the equipment which had been discussed.

We told the UN Security Council that this issue can be discussed while the Iraqi delegation is in New York. We cannot agree to destroying some equipment, regardless of its nature, before we reach an understanding on the subject as a whole, and before we ask the UN Security Council: What is your objective? To destroy Iraq's industry or to implement Resolution 687? If your objective is to implement Resolution 687, then we have no objection, but if your objective is to destroy Iraq's industry and destroy Iraq's chances to become an industrial and prosperous country that enables its people to live like any other people, then this is a different matter altogether, and we will stand before the UN Security Council to dot the i's. We asked for a several-day postponement [of the statement until after the Iraqi delegation's visit to New York]. They could specify the time when the delegation should arrive in New York, and we were prepared to go there.

Despite this, they considered our position to be a violation of their resolution. This was not a violation of the Security Council resolution. Iraq says that it is prepared to send a delegation to New York to give further clarifications and to reach an understanding on the implementation measures. This statement was also biased and, as always, full of false accusations and falsehoods. This is the background to that statement.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] the threats and other allegations?

['Aziz] Mr. Sami, I have explained the falsehoods and the lies contained in that statement. We can explain to the UN Security Council that all accusations against Iraq are false and baseless and that the facts have been distorted and directed in a biased way with the aim of instigating matters against Iraq. As for threats, this is not the first threat made against us. They always seek to place our country and people under the hammer of threats. We are implementing the obligations with all responsibility. Yes, these obligations are unfair, unprecedented, and unjust, and this is known and a fact which every fair man in the world knows. But our feeling of responsibility dictates that we spare our people any harm. But, if they want to place Iraq under the hammer of constant threats, the 6,000-year-old Iraqi people can protect themselves against aggression, injustice, and tyranny.

When you want to make objective conclusions, regardless of our feelings as Iraqis, you can see injustice. It [the Security Council] destroyed all weapons that Iraq possessed. Of course, all other states in the region—Israel and Iran—possess similar weapons, but despite this Iraq's weapons were destroyed. It also prevented Iraq from producing such weapons. Some of the equipment used to manufacture these weapons was destroyed during the aggression. What was spared of this equipment we can use for civilian purposes. Now it wants to destroy whatever it wishes, now or in a month, in two months, or in six months, until it liquidates Iraq's industry altogether.

You know that during the aggression they bombed the baby milk factory. They insolently said that it was a factory for biological industries. The U.S. journalist Arnett, who was present then, took milk from the factory with him to the United States and offered it with tea to his visitors. He told them that he had brought the milk that he would use in their tea from the baby milk factory. And one of the members of his household saw this and bore witness to it. He was present at the site [of the factory]. Despite this, they considered the baby milk factory something to be remembered. They come to us and say that chemicals could be produced at the fertilizer factory; therefore, it must be destroyed. They say that this is a petrochemical factory and must be destroyed. This is a factory and must be destroyed. Hence, their objective is to destroy all Iraqi industries.

[Correspondent] Just as they had destroyed the cement factories and the [word indistinct] factories.

['Aziz] Yes. This is not acceptable. It is not the Security Council resolution. Rather, it is the tendentious U.S. interpretation of the Security Council resolution. The Security Council resolution does not stipulate this.

The language of the Security Council resolution is clear. Yes, it is unjust; yes, it is arbitrary; and yes, it is unprecedented. However, it is clearly aimed at destroying only banned weapons, which has been done. It also seeks to prevent Iraq from manufacturing those weapons. This too has been done because we neither produce those weapons nor do we have the capability to do so given the current situation, the destruction that occurred, and the current supervision. We neither produce nor do we intend to produce those weapons. They know this. Inspection teams are present and visit Iraq without prior notice. They have visited all areas. They have even visited Mosul Prison, claiming that there is a nuclear reactor and banned equipment in the prison. Of course some of them began to feel that they had become the subject of ridicule and that their behavior was closer to a farce than to the implementation of specific tasks from a technical point of view.

[Correspondent] Has [words indistinct] our delegation to New York?

['Aziz] Yes. It has been decided to send a delegation to New York. This delegation is made up of me, the minister of state for foreign affairs, and a number of experts from the Foreign Ministry and the sectors concerned with Resolution 687. We have informed the council that we are ready. They have said that they will send us an invitation. Yesterday the U.S. president of the council met with the Iraqi charge d'affaires in New York and addressed an invitation to us. He also asked the charge d'affaires to inform the next president of the council, the Venezuelan representative, on Monday, tomorrow, of the members of the delegation, and to agree—the charge d'affaires with the Security Council president or the ambassador, because he was on a mission, and I think he has returned to New York—on a date. The delegation members and I are ready to leave at the time set by the Security Council. We will explain all these facts to the council. We will explain what has been accomplished with regard to implementing Resolution 687, which is the essence of the resolution. We will emphasize that Iraq has cooperated, and continues to cooperate. We will also explain the points over which there were fabrications, misleading, and tendentious conclusions regarding Iraq's position. Based on legitimacy, right, justice, and the texts of the resolution itself, we will call for lifting the sanctions and the embargo on our people.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Tariq 'Aziz.

['Aziz] Thank you.

Foreign Ministry Rejects UN 'Conclusions'

JN2902193392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Feb (INA)—Commenting on yesterday's statement by the UN Security Council, a Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated the following:

Once again the Security Council issues a hasty statement against Iraq. Blind accusations and slanders were made against Iraq without objective examination and without listening to Iraq's point of view.

Like other statements, this one shows clearly how the United States has turned the Security Council, its methods of action, its resolutions, and its statements into cheap political tools aimed at fulfilling tendentious and rancorous imperialist objectives.

The spokesman said that yesterday's statement is full of falsehoods and slanders and portrays Iraq's position in an incorrect and tendentious manner. Iraq rejects the conclusions introduced into the statement through pressure from the United States and the agents that serve its objectives.

The spokesman added: Iraq explained its position to Ambassador Ekeus in an objective and scientific manner and emphasized to him that the Iraqi political and technical delegation scheduled to visit New York soon will explain Iraq's position on a number of pending issues.

Nevertheless, the United States sought to fabricate a tense atmosphere before the arrival of the delegation with a view toward sabotaging and distorting Iraq's stand before it is put before the Security Council.

The spokesman emphasized that the Iraqi delegation will explain Iraq's position to the Security Council in a comprehensive and objective manner with a view to exposing the lies and slanders being promoted against Iraq. The spokesman also emphasized that Iraq believes in the fairness of its legitimate rejection of the method of threats and repeated warnings.

Ambassador to Algeria on UN 'Fabrications'

LD0103141692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] [Passage indistinct] We asked Iraq's ambassador to explain his country's position toward the UNSC [Security Council] accusations that Iraq has rejected the destruction of its mass-annihilation weapons. He replied:

[Begin Iraqi ambassador recording] Their fabrications will continue. We believe a day will come when they will accuse us of using forks and spoons to eat and will say that this is not permissible because it constitutes part of mass annihilation. They keep making charges against us. For our part, we implement the UN resolutions to the letter. But they want us to go even further than that. What they really seek is to undermine Iraq's sovereignty.

As to the slogans [as heard] about the destruction of which they have spoken, this has nothing to do, in my opinion, with the UN and Security Council resolutions. For this reason we asked to negotiate directly with the UN Security Council and not with U.S. institutions in the name of the Security Council. [end recording]

We asked Iraq's ambassador to Algeria what he has to say about the reports that Washington has asked some Arab countries to join in an attempt to overthrow Saddam Husayn's regime. He replied as follows:

[Begin ambassador recording] The Western information media and the Western quarters concerned with this matter have really proven their foolishness after the Gulf war. The Iraqi people are not so politically naive as to accept that such things being said by the Western media will liberate the Iraqi people. If they [Westerners] have sufficient power, then let them try to keep these [Arab] regimes in place and not push them into toppling Saddam Husayn's regime. The Saddam Husayn regime will not fall, and they know very well that Saddam Husayn's regime will not fall and that these regimes will fall before Saddam Husayn does. [end recording]

Commentary Notes New UN 'Threats'

JN2902183192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1720 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Commentary carried within the "Spotlight on the News" program—read by Akram Muhsin]

[Excerpt] The Americans and their Atlantic allies have once again expressed their evil intentions against the Iraqi people. As usual, they tried to use the Security Council to make threats against Iraq. They have already used this council for a year and a half to issue successive resolutions imposing sanctions and launching the barbaric aggression against the Iraqi people.

Just as the U.S. Administration and its Atlantic allies in the past fabricated political and media campaigns against Iraq over its implementation of Security Council resolutions, they last night made a new fuss under the pretext that Iraq failed to destroy equipment that can be used to manufacture long-range missiles. These accusations are being made while a high-ranking Iraqi delegation plans to leave for the United Nations this week to explain Iraq's views on the blockade that the U.S. Administration and its allies insist on maintaining even though its justifications and reasons have been removed.

Some observers believe that this made-up crisis is similar to the crisis fabricated by the U.S. Administration when it sent its agent, David Kay, to Baghdad at the head of an international inspection team in September. Once again the U.S. Administration is revealing its hatred of the Iraqi people. Also, by portraying Iraq as uncooperative with the inspection teams, Washington is trying to find excuses to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs and destroy the country's firm resolve after the Iraqis have shown over the past year a superb ability to rebuild what the aggressors destroyed. The upsurge embodied in the reconstruction drive has aroused the hatred and grudge of the imperialist and Zionist forces, which continue to feel restless as long as Iraq represents the steadfast Arab fortress against Zionist ambitions and the imperialist designs aimed at fragmenting the Arab nation and controlling its wealth and capabilities.

The new U.S. and Atlantic threats against Iraq, through the Security Council, coincide with the campaign of the condemnation of the unjust blockade against the Iraqi people now that the entire world has realized the false slogans raised by Bush and his followers about international legitimacy and human rights. [passage omitted]

Saddam Chairs RCC, Ba'th Party Joint Session

JN2902192992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn today chaired a joint session of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The meeting addressed a number of important issues and the latest political developments.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office. Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn attended part of the meeting.

Likud Ranks Members for Upcoming Elections

List Reported; Levi Comes in 18th

TA2802135792 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Feb 92 p 1

[List of 50-member panel of Likud candidates for Knesset list as elected by 2,912 (92.7 percent) of Central Committee members on 27 February; right-hand column gives the following information: slot in the 1988 panel, or N for newly elected; L for member of former Liberal Party; T for member of defunct TAMI, Traditional Movement, Israel]

[Text]

Name	Votes Received	Status
1. Moshe Qatzav	1,975	2
2. Binyamin Netanyahu	1,963	1
3. Beni Begin	1,878	3
4. Ari'el Sharon	1,838	5
5. Roni Milo	1,826	11
6. Limor Livnat	1,733	27
7. Moshe Arens	1,669	4
8. David Magen	1,666	7
9. 'Uzi Landau	1,650	10
10. Sha'ul 'Amor	1,623	16
11. Ehud Olmert	1,619	14
12. Dov Shilansky	1,583	18
13. Tzahi Hanegbi	1,533	12
14. Mikha'el Eytan	1,499	24
15. Yehoshu'a Matza	1,472	23
16. David Mena'	1,427	30
17. Me'ir Shetrit	1,427	N
18. David Levi	1,367	6
19. Dan Meridor	1,355	8
20. Gid'on Pat	1,346	L
21. Eliyahu Ben-Elisar	1,329	9
22. 'Ovadya Eli	1,317	15
23. Ya'aqov Shamay	1,294	13
24. Dan Tikhon	1,288	L
25. Moshe Nisim	1,273	L
26. Na'omi Blumenthal	1,270	N
27. Shalom Silvan	1,234	N
28. Ari'el Weinstein	1,225	L
29. Yosi Ahime'ir	1,153	N
30. Mikha'el Ratzon	1,105	33
31. As'ad As'ad	1,078	N
32. Re'uven Rivlin	1,033	28
33. Aharon Abuhatzera	1,031	T
34. Hayim Kaufman	1,026	25
35. Gil Samsonov	1,013	N
36. Avraham Hirschensohn	993	34
37. Mikha'el Kleiner	982	21
38. Prosper 'Azran	929	N
39. Eli Boqer	923	N
40. Yehoshu'a Sagi	923	20
41. Miryam Mazar	920	N
42. Yisra'el Katz	912	29
43. Moshe Bar-Kokhva	886	N
44. Ron Nahman	875	50
45. Yosef Goldberg	847	L
46. Moshe Badash	845	N
47. Yehuda Perah	817	L
48. Shlomo Ben-Lulu	764	47
49. Avraham Sharir	764	L
50. Shmu'el Slavin	757	N

'Resounding Blow' Seen

TA0103054592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Report by Leah Zinder]

[Excerpts] Over the weekend, interfactional wheeling and dealing reached new heights of intensity as the Likud leadership met in marathon sessions to prepare for today's ranking process—the celebrated sevenses. They are so called because the panel of 50 Likud Knesset candidates elected last Thursday will now be ranked in successive rounds of seven.

At 1300 this afternoon, the Likud Central Committee will convene once again at the Tel Aviv Convention Center to elect the first group of seven. The seven names will appear immediately after that of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on the Likud list for the Knesset in the June elections.

At 1830 this evening, the central committee is scheduled to choose the second group of seven. The other two groups of seven will be elected tomorrow. The rivalry for the top fourteen places to be determined today is intense. Before voting begins each candidate must decide to which spot he wishes to be elected so that the various factions can plan voting strategies.

Once more, attention is focused on Foreign Minister David Levi and his faction. Levi was dealt a resounding blow in the panel elections, when he was placed 18th. At that time, he accused Moshe Arens and Ari'el Sharon of a covert pact to push him way down the list. Both Sharon and Arens have announced they are competing against Levi for the No. 1 spot in the first round of seven. [passage omitted]

And then, there is the sticky problem of the younger Likud leaders, the so-called princes. Both Knesset

Member Binyamin Begin and Deputy Minister Bibi [Binyamin] Netanyahu enjoy immense popularity among central committee members, and they will want to be placed in the first seven—something that will ensure them of a cabinet post, if the Likud forms the next government.

But then what to do about the present Likud cabinet ministers: Roni Milo, Ehud Olmert, Dan Meridor, Moshe Nisim, David Magen, and—perhaps most notably—Moshe Qatzav, who gained first place in the panel elections. [passage omitted]

Arens, Sharon, Levi Win Panel Vote

TA0103172692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Here are the results of the voting at the Likud Central Committee meeting:

First, Moshe Arens, followed by Ari'el Sharon, David Levi, and Moshe Qatzav. The fifth place was taken by Binyamin Netanyahu, and Ze'ev Binyamin Begin came in sixth. Roni Milo closed the first group of seven.

Upon learning the results of the voting for the first group of seven, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he was quite pleased, except for some things that would have to be rectified this evening. Mr. Shamir refused to specify what he was referring to.

Defense Minister Arens congratulated all those elected to the first group of seven. He said the contest was tense, but fair.

Construction and Housing Minister Sharon said that he always accepts the decisions of the Central Committee, and that the third place accorded to David Levi was very respectable. He asserted that the important thing was that no one was pushed off the list and that all the top leadership was included in the first group of seven.

David Levi refused to comment on the rankings. Binyamin Netanyahu, who came in fifth, noted that David Levi undoubtedly had been ranked among the very top.

Levi Accuses Shamir of 'Plot'

TA0103202192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Speech by Foreign Minister David Levi to his supporters at the Israel Convention Center at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds following the voting for the Likud' first group of seven on 1 March—recorded]

[Text] We believed that the conspiracy that took place in the panel voting [for the 50 people on the Likud Knesset list] was over and that responsibility would guide those who had banded together in an attempt to quash the will of the members of the Likud Central Committee. [crowd shouts: The will of the people.]

Central Committee members, my standing was made manifest in the contest for leadership of the movement, in which everyone clearly saw the choice of the Central Committee, even though everyone banded together against our camp. That evening, I spoke the truth that I already was aware of. I also knew that the trend to deny the will of the Central Committee would continue—this banding together in strange coalitions to rig the results. Today we saw that method is still being pursued. [applause]

Quiet, please! Despite all their alliances—all of them, including the prime minister, who was also an accomplice to this plot [catcalls]—despite all their efforts, despite all the activity of all those forces, which were backed by the entire movement's resources and party machinery—despite all that, only 26 votes separated me from the first place. We have to know exactly what this means. I need no help, please. The meaning of this is clear. Opportunism has brought together those who yesterday accused each other of things better not mentioned pertaining to national and governmental issues. [applause]

Shamir on Likud Vote, Rabin Speech

TA0103184892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told Le'a Zinder he takes a sanguine view on the specific ranking within the first group of seven.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] Well I do not think it is important. It is not so important, but anyhow, many people want to be elected.

[Zinder] Will this determine their political future, in your view?

[Shamir] I do not think so. I think that there are not any differences of views among these people. All of them are partisans of the Likud philosophy, and I like all of them.

[Zinder] David Levi did very badly in the panel elections. His chances do not look all that good here tonight either, although it is early to say. Will this affect his standing if the Likud forms the next government? He is, after all, right now deputy prime minister.

[Shamir] I do not think it will have any impact on his positions, and I think today will improve his standing.

[Zinder] Mr. Prime Minister, Yitzhaq Rabin said this afternoon that if he is elected prime minister, he will bring about autonomy for the Palestinians in between six to nine months. What is your view?

[Shamir] Well, I do not understand really how he defines the time limits, because, first of all, until he will be elected, and nobody knows if he will be elected [changes thought]. And then, what will happen then in the Arab camp? If he speaks about autonomy, nobody among the Arabs agrees to get autonomy. [end recording]

Levi Camp Triumphs in Second Panel

TA0203053792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Tension is high in the Likud in anticipation of tonight's vote for the third and fourth seven-man panels. Last night the Shamir-Arens candidates won the battle for the first seven-man panel, while the Levi camp, aided by Minister Moshe Nisim and [Jewish Agency Treasurer] Me'ir Shetrit, won the battle for the second seven-man panel. The first panel, which is ranked after Yitzhaq Shamir, includes Arens, Sharon, Levi, Qatzav, Netanyahu, Begin, and Milo; this is the ranking the Shamir-Arens camp had assigned its supporters.

Only one member of the Shamir-Arens camp—Minister Ehud Olmert—was elected to the second panel. The other Shamir-Arens candidates, including Ministers Meridor and Pat and Knesset Members [MK's] 'Eli, Matza, 'Amor, and Shamay, were not elected in this round. Minister Nisim won the first slot of the second seven-man panel; he is followed by Dov Shilansky, Me'ir Shetrit, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, Ehud Olmert, Dan Tikhon, and David Magen. MK Re'uven Rivlin, a member of the Levi camp, did not win a place on this panel.

Minister Olmert said that the ousting of Dan Meridor was the result of instigation and mudslinging of unprecedented dimensions, and the Likud stands to lose from this.

After the vote, Minister Levi said that he and his people have defeated their rivals' attempt to take over the party. Ministers Levi and Nisim announced that their cooperation will continue.

No One Hurt, No Damage in Lebanon Gunfire

TA0103094092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] This morning several shots were fired from light weapons at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] outpost on the edge of the security zone. The IDF soldiers returned fire at the source of the shooting, outside the security zone. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that no one was hurt and there was no damage as a result of the shooting.

Another Incident Reported

TA0103135492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] This afternoon, mortar shells were again fired at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] outpost east of al-Nabatiyah on the border of the security zone. No one was hurt. The soldiers returned fire.

Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that the Islamic Resistance Movement, which is affiliated with Hizballah, assumed responsibility for the shooting.

IDF Warns Lebanese Army

TA0203090292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Mar 92 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Menahem Horowitz]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Official military sources last night reported that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] takes a grave view of yesterday's shooting at IDF posts from Lebanese territory controlled by the Lebanese Army.

Sources in the Northern Command stated that the fire came from areas under the Lebanese Army's control and that the IDF will not tolerate attacks on IDF or SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers by terrorists who operate under the auspices or perhaps with the assistance of the Lebanese Army.

The assumption in the IDF is that as weather conditions improve, terrorists will attempt to step up attacks in the security zone in southern Lebanon, mainly against IDF outposts. Last week, Hizballah announced that it will not continue shooting at Israel or the security zone. The IDF has again stepped up the alert along the Lebanese border. No Hizballah attack has been noted since the last round of katyushas, compared with a weekly average of eight attacks previously. Defense establishment sources yesterday said that the Lebanese Army is in charge of preventing Hizballah activity and of bringing quiet to southern Lebanon.

Rabin Promises Autonomy in 'Six to Nine Months'

TA0103153992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1405 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Address by Labor chairman Yitzhaq Rabin at a special Labor Central Committee session called to rank the party's Knesset candidates, at Tel Aviv's Cinerama Auditorium—live]

[Excerpts] Colleagues, I thank those of you who voted for me and respect those who voted otherwise. Starting today, we are one united party with a single goal [applause], which is to defeat the Likud in the elections and ensure that the State of Israel has a government that will meet the needs of the people and the country.

I am aware of the weighty responsibility entrusted to me, which I perceive as a personal responsibility. I am sure that, together with you, we will succeed. [applause]

You may ask me: Is that possible? I am convinced it is. Anybody who visits locations and communities throughout the country sees, hears, and discerns the beginning of a change, of hope, of the realization that it is necessary to replace the Likud and give a chance to the State of Israel.

In my opinion, there are two reasons for the growing inclination toward change in many sectors of the public. The first is the realization that the Likud has missed, is missing, and will miss the great opportunities facing our

country—making peace while upholding security—due to its erroneous and distorted order of priorities, which favors political settlements over everything, over every issue—aliyah, the young generation, the war against unemployment, progress for Israel's society and economy—and due to this government's poor functioning in almost every aspect of our life.

The second reason is the realization that something has happened in Labor, that it has changed its ways as well as its leadership. The public perceives these changes as the basis for a chance to bring about a change that will improve all aspects of our life.

As far as the Likud's policy is concerned, I cannot begin to stress the importance of making peace. Chattering and boasting about a peace process should cease, and talk should start about making peace. This is possible and desirable with the Palestinians in the territories. I am telling you: I promise that within six to nine months after I form a government we will reach an agreement with the Palestinians in the territories on the establishment of autonomy, and later with Jordan and with Syria. [applause]

I also promise to stop the political settlements, the sole purpose of which is to block any possible political solution. If the building were in greater Jerusalem or the Jordan Valley, or if settlements were strengthened on the Golan Heights, I would not argue. The Likud, however, directs the main bulk of its resources to political settlements that have nothing to do with security. They are meant only to block any chance for peace, for the beginning of peace.

Is the cessation or slowdown of aliyah an act of God? Is the loss of hope of Israel's marvelous young generation—who serve in the Israel Defense Forces and face serious hardships on being discharged from the Army—an act of God? Is the rise in unemployment an act of God? Is the condition of roads, which forces commuters to spend hours driving to and from work, an act of God? No, it is not! Things could be different. I am not talking about the End of Days, but about the time when we form a government.

As I said, within six to nine months we will reach an agreement on the establishment of autonomy. At the same time, we will change the order of our national priorities. There will be no more political settlements. We will divert billions of shekels to the absorption of immigrants, to help for the young generation, and to a war on unemployment. We will be able to attract tremendous financial resources from abroad. For almost a year, U.S. loan guarantees totaling $10 billion have been within our reach. They have been denied us only because of the mad delusion of Greater Israel and political settlements. Those guarantees could have resolved the problems of immigrant absorption, unemployment, and our social and economic ills. All these problems are not acts of God. They are the result of the actions of the Likud Government. If the Likud stays in power, we will witness additional settlements. We will witness a slowdown in aliyah. We will witness a rise in unemployment and the loss of any chance and hope for anyone living in this country and anyone living overseas who believes in the State of Israel. All this can be prevented quickly and effectively. We can bring about a State of Israel that will develop, make progress, and promote peace, and we can do it all without harming security. That is what we will tell the people. [applause] [passage omitted]

I call on party members to elect the most suitable representatives, those who will represent the Labor Party's positions, who can best express our positions on two major issues: the promotion of peace and security, and the development of our society and economy. For the sake of party unity, I call on members to guarantee the place of two central members: Shim'on Peres and Yisra'el Qeysar. [prolonged applause] [passage omitted]

On Levi's Slot in Likud

TA0203054992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Labor leader Yitzhaq Rabin says the fact that David Levi only came in third in yesterday's Likud Central Committee vote confirms that the Likud has become more extreme. He said the new Likud leadership makes it even more difficult for the Likud to advance the peace process.

Yesterday, the Labor Party Central Committee voted to allocate seventh place on its Knesset list to Party Secretary Mikha Harish. Four women members have also been guaranteed assured places on the Labor party list.

New Plans for Housing, Roads Beyond Green Line

TA0203111092 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Mar 92 p A4

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] In a few weeks, the Construction and Housing Ministry will start earthworks for the construction of 4,000 housing units in the settlement of Adam, situated beyond the Green Line, 7 km north of Jerusalem, between the villages of Jaba' to the west and Mukhmas to the north. Initial details of the plan are contained in an annual review compiled by the Mate Binyamin Regional Council's Planning and Construction Department. The planners envision that the settlement will become an urban suburb of Jerusalem.

The 300-resident settlement was established by inhabitants of low-income Jerusalem neighborhoods. Dozens of new families will join the settlement after the houses they are building privately are completed. The 4,000-unit plan was prepared by the Construction and Housing Ministry's Urban Construction Department. The houses will be built on part of the 5,000 dunams of Mate Binyamin regional council territory, which were declared state land a few years ago. Adam inhabitants want their settlement to be populated mainly by Jerusalem area

residents, for which purpose they intend to set up apartment sales offices in the Katamon and 'Ir Ganim neighborhoods in the capital.

The planned 4,000 housing units are not part of the recently reported quota of annual construction in the territories. In an address before the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations last week, Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon spoke of 22,000 housing starts in the territories, and it is believed that the 4,000 housing units in Adam are included in this figure.

The Mate Binyamin Planning and Construction Department's annual review reveals additional details about the council's plans for the coming year, as well as plans executed last year:

—In 1991, some 1,200 mobile homes were placed within the council's boundaries.

—This year, quite a few settlements declined Construction and Housing Ministry offers to build hundreds of housing units on their territory. The rejection was probably due to the planned housing units' size of barely 60 square meters.

—After many settlements have installed gate roadblocks and watch posts, a special emphasis will be put this year on fencing. The total fencing on council territory will stand at 20,000 meters; this figure does not include 12,000 meters of security lighting.

—This year, the settlements of Dolev, Talmon and Talmon Bet, Nahli'el, Kokhav Ya'aqov, 'Ateret, and 'Ofarim will be linked up to the national power grid. Last year, Adam and Neve Tzuf were linked up.

—In parallel with the paving of the Shilo-'Eli road (No. 60), which is about to be completed, the authority has decided in advance to extend this road along the al-Ram-'Ofra-al-Mazra'ah-al-Sharqiyah stretch and to build a Shilo-Derekh Alon road, a Halamish-Ari'el road, a road that bypasses the village of Biddu, and a Na'ale-Ra's Karkar road. In addition, construction continues of the new Jerusalem road extension from Bet Horon to the Giv'at Ze'ev junction and of a road bypassing 'Abud. Additional roads planned by the council in the near future are: Pisgat Ze'ev-Adam, Pisgat Ze'ev-'Anatot, Kokhav Ya'aqov-Psagot, Bet El-Dolev, a road bypassing al-Tayyibah, and a Kfar Adumim-Alon road.

The access roads to the settlements of 'Eli, Talmon, and 'Anatot were completed in 1991, and an effort will be made in 1992 to complete the Bet El and Bet El Bet joint access road, to link Na'ale with the hill to the northwest and Shilo with Shilo East, and to complete the link between western Binyamin settlements and the new No. 446 road (from Matityahu in the direction of Na'ale).

Levi To Pay Official Visit to Moscow 29 Mar

TA2902211992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi will arrive in Moscow on an official visit on 29 March, our Moscow correspondent Mikha'el Karpin has learned from a senior source in the Russian Foreign Ministry. Minister Levi will be the first Israeli foreign minister to pay an official visit to Russia. Our correspondent points out that the invitation was extended to Minister Levi when he conferred with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev during the multilateral talks in Moscow about a month ago.

Buwayz—Little Progress in Talks With Israel

NC2902084192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1227 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by unidentified correspondents at his office "a short time ago"—recorded]

[Text] [First correspondent] Mr. Minister, in light of the reports coming from Ambassador Shammas, how to you see the Lebanese-Israeli talks proceeding?

[Buwayz] Naturally, we did not expect the current round of talks to achieve fundamental or basic progress, because we regard the current Israeli Government as a caretaker that cannot make major concessions. This round of talks is necessary so the discussions and dialogue will continue, and so we can eventually justify holding another round of talks, even if nothing fundamental comes out of this one.

After making a very careful assessment of the pros and cons of participating in this round, we decided to participate. In our estimation, the talks have not yet achieved the required progress; on the contrary, the Israeli delegation is trying to disrupt the talks. It proposed the formation of a military committee, which we naturally rejected for several reasons. First, we believe forming a military committee would allow Israel to exploit the security issue in south Lebanon, which in the final analysis is not the basic issue. The military and security situation in the south is a result of the occupation, not the reason for it.

We believe that a military committee can be formed only after Israel recognizes the principle of withdrawal. When this is recognized, a military committee will be tasked with implementing it. At that point we would have no objection to its formation. Accepting it now would imply accepting Israeli logic that the problem in the south is a military and security one. This is what we have been rejecting so far.

[Second correspondent] Mr. Minister, during yesterday's meeting, the Israeli delegation raised the issue of the Syrian, Iranian, and Hizballah presence, and said that Lebanese territory is being used as a springboard for operations against Israel. What is your comment on this?

[Buwayz] Lebanese territory is probably used as a springboard for resistance against the Israeli occupation, but it is not used against Israel. Very simply, what we are saying is: Instead of wasting time discussing the results, let us discuss the reasons. The security situation is a result of the occupation. The reason is the occupation. When we have dealt with the occupation problem, we can move to guarantees to halt the deteriorating situation. When this is achieved, I believe there will be no justification for continued deterioration in the south.

Separate 'Deals' Ruled Out

NC2902095592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Buwayz pointed out that the peace conference can never lead to separate solutions or deals between isolated parties. It is wrong to believe otherwise, he said, adding: We believe attempts to isolate any Arab party are wrong, and a superficial tactic. It is not in the United States' or Israel's interest to try to isolate any Arab party or force anyone to accept some of the conditions outlined in the conference in isolation from the rest of the Arab group, because this conference has made comprehensive peace its goal.

Commenting on remarks by the Israeli delegation yesterday, that discussion of UN Security Council Resolution 425 is tantamount to discussing partial peace, Buwayz said: Resolution 425 is comprehensive. It deals comprehensively with the issue of the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory. The resolution calls for full Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and outlines the mechanism for implementation. Hence we believe that Resolution 425 is the only sound framework for implementing the Israeli part of the agreement, submitting to the will of international legitimacy, and honoring the commitments and assurances we received as a condition for taking part in the conference.

Buwayz added: We did not take part in the conference by chance or on the basis of vague or mysterious motives. We took part after extensive negotiations with the United States, and after several rounds of talks with Secretary Baker, which culminated in letters that came to be known as assurances. We still insist on the content of these letters. Moreover, the United States still bases its vision of the conference on those letters. [passage omitted]

U.S. Intervention Expected

NC2902144592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Dispatch by Josephine Yazbik]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Yazbik] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said the talks will make no real progress before the Israeli elections, and he expected U.S. intervention in the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations in the next few days. Buwayz reiterated the lack of progress, and made the following remarks after meeting Patriarch Sfayr today:

[Correspondent] The Palestinian and Jordanian delegations see positive signs and progress in the talks; whereas the Lebanese, Syrians, and Israelis do not. To what do you attribute this disparity of views?

[Buwayz] The Jordanian and Palestinian delegations have been optimistic since the talks started. But so far they have not assessed the situation realistically. We

hope they will remain optimistic. We are neither optimistic nor pessimistic; rather we evaluate the situation objectively.

We cannot say there has been tangible progress in the talks, although it is wrong to judge the conference by one round or phase. We cannot judge the success or failure of the conference. It is too early to give a final opinion. We believe there has been no progress. We doubt that the talks can achieve any tangible or substantial progress before the Israeli elections. We are dealing with a caretaker government in Israel which has no mandate and which cannot, even if it wants to, achieve major progress. In view of what I have just said, it is hard to believe that our brothers, the Jordanians and Palestinians, have achieved progress.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, do you expect U.S. intervention in the Lebanese-Israeli talks?

[Buwayz] I do. The United States made no secret of its commitment to play an active part in the conference, promising to do so in its invitation to the current round. This is what we expect and demand. I think the United States is likely to play a role in the next few days.

[Yazbik] Buwayz added that if Israel wants to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, it can, because it is clear and unambiguous; but if it wants to impose conditions, Lebanon is not ready to accept them or to put up with any maneuvering.

Buwayz said that he discussed current issues with Patriarch Sfayr, including the situation in the south and the current talks in Washington. [end recording]

President al-Hirawi Leaves Hospital 1 Mar

NC0203071392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] After recovering from a simple surgical operation, President Ilyas al-Hirawi left St. Charles Hospital in al-Fayyadiyah [as heard] last night. He was moved to his home, where he will recuperate for a few days.

Nasrallah on Hizballah Role in Lebanese Politics

NC2802163592 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1239 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Interview with Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah, Hizballah secretary general, by unidentified radio correspondent; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Your eminence, Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah: We want to conduct a frank interview. You are known for your candor—we have seen you at different rallies. The Middle East region is in a state of struggle. Talks are being held in Washington. If these talks succeed, what will be the fate of Hizballah, particularly in light of the fact that certain Lebanese officials have said that some people want Hizballah's head?

[Nasrallah] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. We do not expect any crucial progress in the talks, because we believe that the Israeli enemy is using the time to work toward realizing its scheme, which it has never abandoned. We are fully convinced that the Israeli enemy is using time to its advantage to carry out its schemes and its ambitions. We have said more than once that the Jews—who were weak, divided, and spread all over the world before coming to Palestine—have not abandoned the Greater Israel scheme. Today, the balance has been disturbed and Israel feels strong, and they have the support of the new world order amid the weakness in the area around them. We do not believe that the Israeli enemy will allow any real progress to be made in these talks, and will not make any serious concessions. We know that Yitzhaq Shamir went back on the Camp David accords.

Accordingly, we assume that [words indistinct]. I would like to affirm that the Hizballah movement in Lebanon is not an accidental or exceptional movement. It is, in fact, a movement from deep within the Lebanese people's roots—a movement which seeks freedom, dignity, and pride, and defends the land, the people, and sanctities. This is a popular, great movement that has many significant issues to deal with.

If anyone makes a settlement at the expense of the Lebanese people or the region in general, Hizballah will not be the only victim. All the peoples of the region will be victims. When we are subject to aggression, it is our duty to defend ourselves, regardless of the possible results. We will do so because we believe in our duty to God and humanity. We do not believe that the current conditions are leading where we want to go.

[Correspondent] What is the relationship between Hizballah and the Lebanese state, in light of Hizballah's entry into Lebanese politics and the official permission it has received to engage in political activities? In view of martyr 'Abbas al-Musawi's efforts to focus more on issues of daily life in the southern suburbs, Beirut, and other areas, what does Hizballah intend to do?

[Nasrallah] Our position regarding the Lebanese authorities is one of opposition. This is our longstanding and declared position. We came out against the al-Ta'if Accord after carefully examining the agreement and its consequences. We have also declared our opposition to the government's composition and performance. We oppose the Lebanese authority out of concern for Lebanon and the Lebanese.

As for the policies of the martyred secretary general, I have repeatedly said that these policies were not personal; they were drawn up by Hizballah's collective leadership as represented by its Consultative Committee. Hizballah's leadership formulated these policies. Hizballah has followed a policy of openness toward most of the forces active on the Lebanese scene. There is an

ongoing dialogue with these forces, which is being conducted on a clear and well-defined basis with the aim of serving the interests of the resistance, the Lebanese, and other nations in the region.

We will continue following the policies of the martyred leader. At home, we will continue to champion the interests of the oppressed classes. Our first commitment is to the resistance. Our second is to tackle the problems of poverty and deprivation. It is unacceptable for a large section of the Lebanese people to lead an abject and frustrated life of deprivation, which cannot be explained by the lack of resources, but is due to injustice and to inefficient administration. Resolving the problem of deprivation will boost society's ability to resist its enemies and defend its land.

We will continue the work the martyred leader began. We will continue to fight injustice at home. We will also work toward the consolidation of internal security and peace. We will exert every possible effort to banish the specter of renewed civil war. The Lebanese people have suffered enough.

[Correspondent] Your Eminence: You have been elected to succeed Martyr Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi. People say that your election was guided. There is talk that you follow 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami [head of Iranian Islamic Majlis Defense Committee], while certain Hizballah leaders are loyal to 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

[Nasrallah] I would like to discuss this issue candidly. These assumptions about the presence of certain factions within Hizballah are made by intelligence agencies or the press. Some journalists like to measure parties and political powers by the standards applied to other political powers. Hizballah is characterized by the fact that it is built on established beliefs and principles. These beliefs and principles are highly significant because they are based on religious beliefs. For instance, we believe in an idea, which the mass media likes to give a name. It is the idea of rule by the supreme jurisconsult. We believe that Islamic leadership should be given to a man with certain characteristics, including independent judgment in connection with Islamic theology, justice, commitment, piety, political and administrative efficiency, courage, expertise, knowledge, awareness of all the problems facing the nation, and popular acceptance. All these qualities are found in the legitimate leader in whom we believe and whose course we follow. In the past, his eminence Imam Khomeyni was this person. Today we believe that this leader is his eminence Sayyid 'Ali Khamene'i, may God protect him.

Hizballah adopts the same standards in electing its legitimate leadership. The political factions, lines, or alliances in the Islamic Republic have no effect on the Hizballah movement because Hizballah is loyal to the leader and his course. It has absolutely nothing to do with the political alliances and lines in the Islamic Republic. In addition, in the recent elections, we were careful not only to announce the results in the form of an official Hizballah statement, but also to announce at the funeral of the martyred secretary general that the election of the new secretary general was unanimous. This unanimity emanated from everybody's sense of responsibility, and their conviction that each one of us is capable of maintaining cohesion in the march. If there had been a conflict among trends as claimed by the mass media, Hizballah would not have been able to elect a new secretary general with this kind of unanimity. Regardless of who was elected, this choice reflects the unity, understanding, and cohesion within Hizballah.

[Correspondent] According to a report by SAWT AL-KUWAYT from Tehran, Hizballah has decided to hold a conference in Tehran in April. Would you comment on that news?

[Nasrallah] Hizballah holds its conferences in Lebanon, not in Tehran. Hizballah's leaders occasionally visit Tehran for talks with Iranian officials and Islamic leaders. Hizballah leaders visit other world capitals and confer with various leaders in the Islamic world. Hizballah cannot transport all its cadres to Tehran to hold a meeting there. It is logical for Hizballah to hold its conferences here, where the majority of its members live.

[Correspondent] What is the best way to consolidate resistance activities and relations with forces willing to engage in resistance operations, with a history of doing so?

[Nasrallah] We call on all forces to fight the enemy and to be part of the resistance. Resistance is not a monopoly for one party to the exclusion of others, nor is it a duty for one party to the exclusion of others. As we have said repeatedly, the Israeli enemy is a threat to all Lebanese and all nations in the region. Even if that enemy were to raise hundreds of slogans of peace and show some positive signs—which it has not done so far—we believe that the existence of this enemy constitutes a lasting and incessant threat to regional peace and security. The responsibility of fighting the enemy does not rest with a single section of the Lebanese or with Lebanon alone. All the countries in the region, all Arabs and Muslims, and everyone with a conscience in the world has the responsibility to fight the enemy.

The world has boycotted the racist regime in South Africa on humanitarian grounds. I do not see how anyone can believe that the Zionist regime that has usurped Palestine is not racist.

First, we call on everyone to join the resistance. Second, we call for dialogue and cooperation among all the forces that believe in resistance. Such forces should coordinate their policies and actions on this common ground. There can be more than one political force. We may differ on domestic issues, on domestic policy, on our attitude toward the regime, or on our position on al-Ta'if, but we should find common ground in the face of the main threat. I believe that the fight against the Israeli enemy is the most important point of agreement among all Lebanese and all the nations in the region.

We have called for the widest political and material cooperation in resistance activities. We reiterate this call now. If the circumstances are not conducive to the formation of a single resistance front, the least we should do is to coordinate on a bilateral, trilateral, and quadrilateral basis among the forces that are ready to work together, until the time comes when we can form a united and broad front for resistance.

[Correspondent] How do you interpret this call?

[Nasrallah] We are open to all powers which fight Israel or which believe in fighting Israel. In effect, we coordinate at the bilateral level with many of the powers which are engaged in resistance activity. This coordination, however, is still limited to the bilateral level. We hope the atmosphere created by this great incident [al-Musawi's killing] will help us reach a wider scope, through cooperation with all resistance powers.

[Correspondent] Your eminence: Some say that groups are attempting to (?harass) Hizballah before delivering a strong blow, as always happens when the Americans want to do something like that. What is your view, and how do you respond?

[Nasrallah] Those who killed Sayyid 'Abbas did not mean to (?harass) Hizballah; they meant to deal us a blow. With his blood, Hizballah grew greater with the will of God, the people, and all the faithful—not by the will of the killers. This was not part of their scheme. Hizballah has been great with the resistance, and it grew greater with the martyrdom of its secretary general. The martyrdom of the secretary general gave power not only to Hizballah but to all the men of the resistance and to all those taking the path of resistance, both in Lebanon and the region.

The hostile organs often work to distort Hizballah's image and to sow fear in the hearts of some Lebanese and other people about Hizballah's power and plans. We have been very clear in this regard. We have always said that we are prepared to engage in a dialogue or debate with anyone who wants to know how we think, what our views are, or where we want to go. We believe that we have one of the most clear plans in this context in Lebanon. The problem is that some mass media and certain hostile agencies are trying to distort, rather than convey the facts as they really are. I will give you an example. Some say that we want to establish an Islamic republic by force. I tell them to prove this statement by producing even one sentence to this effect from Hizballah's political or official statements since 1982, from a statement by a responsible Hizballah official or media source, or even from a speech by any Hizballah official. It is known that we have many orators who speak. There have probably been thousands of speeches since 1982. Give me one sentence from a speech by any of our brothers, young men, or scholars to this effect. In addition, we have said openly, without maneuvering, that we believe that Islam is the best way to solve peoples' problems. We are proposing Islam as an ideology, in the same way Marxism and other world ideologies were proposed as political and social approaches. We do not hide our belief that Islam and the Islamic system are the most efficient and most capable means of handling peoples' problems. Sooner or later, the people will realize this fact.

We say that an Islamic government cannot be established by force, oppression, or suppression. By nature, Islamic governments can only be established in a country by the will of the country and its people. If any faction, movement, party, or organization imposes an Islamic government on the people by force, this imposed government cannot be described as Islamic.

Generally speaking, I believe that the problem the mass media is trying to create is an attempt to distort Hizballah's image in the eyes of the public by attributing certain actions to Hizballah—actions which Hizballah never did and does not believe in. This might confuse many people or brand Hizballah as terrorist before the public, at a time when experience—particularly the martyrdom of the secretary general and the massive popular presence at his funeral—has shown that Hizballah is not a terrorist group, but rather a struggling political movement which has its roots among the masses. If it is not the first movement, it is the first movement with that degree of popularity.

[Correspondent] Let us go back to the resistance. Following the assassination of the martyred Sayyid al-Musawi, Israel launched an aggression against the area of Kafra and Yatar. Some said the aggression was designed to push the resistance towards Lebanese Army positions. Others believe that the goal was to deal a blow to the resistance in that particular position. Is this true?

[Nasrallah] I believe that the objectives of the Israeli operation were clear and declared by the enemy. There is no debate about this. The Israeli enemy conducted this operation in Kafra and Yatar, which it believes are resistance strongholds, to kill the largest possible number of resistance men—to whom Israel refers as saboteurs—and demolish their homes. I heard that announcement myself and later read it in the papers. The goal was to kill the most resistance men possible and demolish their homes—just as this is being done in the occupied territories, and was done in the most recent enemy operations in Majdal Silm and [words indistinct]—to create a state of panic, frustration, and fear among the people of the south and the resistance. In addition, they assumed that people would be too sad about al-Musawi's assassination to really resist.

On the second day—in the wake of the brave and heroic performance to deter the aggression—we announced the failure of the Israeli operation. The operation failed to achieve any of its goals: Israel failed to enter the two villages, demolish the homes of the resistance men, or kill any of them. On the contrary, Israel sustained losses. News agencies carried varying reports on the killing of six, five, or four Israelis. The Israelis admitted that at

least two—one of whom a captain, the commander of the operation—were killed. Add to this the moral defeat. [Gen. Yitzhaq] Mordekhay said: We received a painful blow. The attack failed because it did not achieve any of its goals. The goal of the attack was clear.

[Correspondent] Today we read an interview with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' in which he says that by supporting the resistance, the Lebanese Government will bring about destruction. What is your reaction to that statement?

[Nasrallah] The opposite is true. Keeping silent regarding the enemy, dealing with it, and reaching out for it is what brought on Lebanon's destruction. If all Lebanese had stood against the Israeli aggression in the past and the present, and if all the Lebanese powers had joined hands and massed against the tanks, guns, and weapons which were used in the internal war to confront the enemy, Lebanon would have been much better off. Lebanon would have been the proud and generous sovereign state which we all seek. As I have said, what brings about destruction is showing tolerance to that enemy; tempting and encouraging the enemy to commit aggression; and serving it at the political, media, security levels by maintaining internal schism and sedition among Lebanese. This is what brings about destruction in Lebanon. I do not believe that nationalist and human logic can agree that resisting the enemy brings destruction to any country. Resisting the enemy has always brought dignity, pride, freedom, and sovereignty to the country.

[Correspondent] What are your conditions for meeting with the Lebanese Forces?

[Nasrallah] That they abandon the Israeli option, stop dealing with Israel, sever relations with the Israeli enemy, return to what serves the interests of Lebanon and the Lebanese people, and admit that Israel is an enemy that must be resisted.

[Correspondent] The Lebanese Government has recently tasked a ministerial committee with remedying the issue of the two German detainees. Will you assist them in any way? If so, how?

[Nasrallah] I believe that the way to solve the issue of the Germans is clear. Of course, as we have emphasized more than once, this problem is not related to us. It is related to the group holding these two Germans, a group that has made its objective in detaining them very clear; namely, to seek the release of the Hammadi brothers being held in Germany. As to how this ministerial committee will carry out its assignment and role, I have no information. What we hope and work for, however, is for the day when there will be no detainees, prisoners, or hostages. In this respect, if there is anything whatsoever we can do to help reach this goal, we will do what we can; we have no problem with that.

[Correspondent] The last question. Following the assassination of Martyr al-Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, a state of fear gripped foreigners in Lebanon. They were worried about the renewed possibility of kidnappings. What can you tell these foreigners?

[Nasrallah] This is one of the negative aspects of the media and the intelligence-directed state of affairs that currently exists. I believe that if the people hurt by al-Musawi's assassination were undisciplined and followed their emotions, many things would have happened in Lebanon. But this did not happen. Nobody was kidnapped or killed, and nothing at all happened, and this proves the falsehood of all these allegations. We have clearly announced that we will not deal with the question of the assassination of martyr 'Abbas al-Musawi from a position of revenge or random reaction. We said that the assassination is a link in the chain of our long battle with the Israeli enemy, and we will continue this battle with the same mentality and the (?same) approach.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Hizballah Claims 3 Israelis Killed in Attack

NC0103094492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0933 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The operations room of the Islamic Resistance has stated that, with the blessings of the blood of his eminence, Martyr 'Abbas al-Musawi, the prince of Islamic Resistance martyrs, and in compliance with his will, the Martyr Haj Marwan Kisrawani group attacked a Zionist position near al-Dabshah in al-Nabatiyah at 0730 today.

The Islamic Resistance statement added that three Zionist soldiers were killed and several others were wounded during the attack.

Israeli 'Combing Operation' Reported

NC0103131492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] At noon today, the occupation forces carried out a combing operation near Kafr Rumman, using artillery shells and machine guns. The outskirts of al-Nabatiyah have come under Israeli shelling since this morning. Israeli activities and reinforcements were noted in locations opposite the liberated areas.

Hizballah on 'General Alert'

NC0103144592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Israeli military aircraft overflew Sidon and the south at 1430 today.

Reports from southern Lebanon indicate that Israeli forces fired several artillery rounds and rockets at Kafr Rumman, wounding a policeman and damaging a number of houses.

An Islamic Resistance official said that a state of general alert was declared in the ranks of the Hizballah fighters in the south. The source added that Israel is escalating its threats and has sent 15 vehicles to a location near al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Israeli Planes Conduct Mock Raids

NC0203061792 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Israeli warplanes conducted mock raids over Sidon, Iqlim al-Tuffah, and al-Nabatiyah villages between 2215 and 2300 last night. The planes fired flares in the skies over the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Miyah Wa Miyah Palestinian camps, and drew anti-aircraft fire.

Afghanistan

Missile Attacks Cause Casualties in Kabul

15 Killed in 29 Feb Strike

LD2902174892 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Excerpts] As a result of the firing of surface-to-surface rockets today by extremists into the crowded Sara-e Shahzada area of Kabul, 15 of our compatriots were martyred, two Hindu compatriots were killed, and 121 of our compatriots were injured. [passage omitted]

The BIA military section reports that the injured were taken to hospitals and are under intensive care. Eighteen of the injured are in critical condition. Some of the others, who were injured by broken glass, were released after being treated. [passage omitted]

Three Killed, Six Hurt 28 Feb

LD2802184492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Excerpt] A child and two other compatriots of ours were martyred today when Kabul was struck by five surface to surface rockets fired by warmongering extremists. Six other persons, including three women, were injured. The BAKHTAR military section reports that the injured were quickly taken to hospitals where they received medical treatment and urgent care. The rockets were fired from the northeast at the residential areas of wards four, nine, and 10. One house was destroyed and a number of residences and shops damamged. [passage omitted]

Three Killed, Four Hurt 27 Feb

LD2702234792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] As a result of three surface-to-surface missile strikes by armed extremists today, three Kabul citizens were martyred and four were injured. The BAKHTAR military section reports that the wounded were taken to hospitals and are under treatment. The missiles were fired from the northeast and hit residential areas in city ward No. 11. Two houses were also damaged.

The missile attacks take place at a time when, as a result of efforts by the United Nations the process in Afghanistan has taken momentum—they have been fired by war-mongering extremists to kill Kabul citizens. Kabul citizens strongly condemn this criminal action of the extremists and express profound indignation at these criminal actions.

Hekmatyar Planning Spring Offensive, Coup

BK2702170692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1514 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Feb 27 (AFP)—Influential Afghan resistance leader Golboddin Hekmatyar said here Thursday that the mojahedin were preparing a decisive post-winter offensive on Kabul to remove President Najibollah.

Speaking at the press club here, Hekmatyar reiterated his rejection of a U.N. plan envisaging an Afghan assembly to set up an interim government in Kabul prior to elections.

Hekmatyar described the plan as vague, impracticable and "a waste of time."

"We are compelled to continue the jihad (holy war)," he said, adding that the overwhelming majority of Afghan Mojahedin groups supported this course, which was opposed by "only a few whose role is equal to nothing."

Condemning what he called Western-led propaganda about disunity in the resistance, Hekmatyar said the Mojahedin were in the process of evolving "practical steps" to besiege Kabul and oust the "illegal" Najibollah government.

"You will hear good tidings very soon about an agreed plan of action by the Mojahedin," the Hezb-e-Eslami chief said.

He reiterated a four-point plan for resolving the Afghan conflict, arguing that it provided the only logical and realistic way out.

Najibollah should first go and then an interim government of non- controversial figures acceptable to Afghans should be formed, leading to a ceasefire and elections, he said.

He offered to cooperate with peace efforts provided this plan was accepted.

Hekmatyar said Pakistan had stopped all aid to the mojahedin and blamed "selfish circles" in the government for trying to create differences between Islamabad and the resistance.

Asked how a mojahedin offensive could succeed without Pakistani aid, Hekmatyar said "our jihad will continue with Allah's help."

"Inshallah (God willing) you will see a decisive attack on Kabul," Hekmatyar said, adding that besides extensive military operations the mojahedin would encourage the Afghan army to "play their role in removing Najibollah."

"If Najibollah insists on war, we are ready to pay him in the same coin," the radical Mojahedin leader said.

Hekmatyar, who met with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif here this week, denied there was any pressure on him to change his mind about the U.N. plan.

"Anyway we don't accept any pressure," he said.

Describing the meeting as useful, he said Sharif found his ideas "reasonable and realistic."

Pakistan has extended full support to the convening of a U.N.- sponsored Afghan assembly, asserting that it would not allow "a few" opponents to hold the peace plan hostage.

Hekmatyar—UN Plan 'Impractical'

LD2902134692 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 29, IRNA—Leader of Afghanistan Islamic Party Golboddin Hekmatyar said here Friday that the U.N. five-point plan on the Afghan issue is "complicated, ambiguous and impractical."

"Implementation of the plan, proposed by the former U.N. chief, will not produce a lasting and just solution to the Afghan crisis and will perpetuate war," Hekmatyar told IRNA.

"We pin no hope on the ongoing political efforts regarding the settlement of the Afghan issue and we are not ready to take part in any conference attended by representatives of Najibollah (president) or Zahir Shah (the exiled king)," he reiterated. He added, "the objective of such a conference, envisaged in the U.N. plan, is formation of a coalition government including the Kabul regime and representatives of the former Afghan king. Therefore, the mojahedin oppose the idea and see little chance for holding the conference." He said his party will reject decisions made in the conference.

Hekmatyar said establishment of a ceasefire is "impossible" as long as Najibollah is in power. The Islamic Party leader, however, stated that his party will accept the U.N. plan provided that Najibollah steps down, the power is delegated to a regime acceptable to the mojahedin, Zahir Shah remains in exile, and finally elections are held within a year after the formation of the transitional government.

Asked whether the mojahedin have an alternative plan, he said his party along with other mojahedin groups have agreed on a plan, details of which will be disclosed after a consensus is reached among the major Afghan parties including those based in Iran.

On whether he will attend a meeting with the U.N. chief, if he is invited, Hekmatyar said that he sees no point in holding such a meeting but that they will decide when the opportunity arises. "We are at the final stage of our armed struggle. The (Najibollah) regime is on the verge of collapse, has no chance of survival and no one is capable of saving it," he stressed.

Rebels Seeking Help To Overthrow Najibollah

BK2602141792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1409 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Feb 26 (AFP)—Rebel commanders from the Afghan militia have contacted the Jamiat Eslami resistance faction for help in overthrowing President Najibollah, faction chief Borhanoddin Rabbani said here Wednesday.

Rabbani, who had previously been non-commital on the U.N. peace plan for Afghanistan, also rejected it for the first time.

He said the handful of commanders, in revolt mainly because of ethnic tensions in the northern region, have repented their past association with Najibollah's government.

They want to defect and join the resistance with thousands of their men, he said, adding that his faction had accepted the offer.

The important Jamiat faction, establishing a Jihadi (holy war) Council under the party's ace commander, Ahmed Shah Mas'ud, would extend the required assistance to rebel commanders, Rabbani told a press conference.

Describing the rebellion as "very positive move," Rabbani said the mutineers and various mojahedin groups in the region would start "widespread military operations" in northern Afghanistan to ultimately eliminate the Kabul government.

The U.N. formula, envisaging a transfer of power to an interim government through a broad-based assembly representing all sections of Afghan society, was "vague," Rabbani said, stressing that it did not spell out whether Najibollah would have a role in the transition.

The Jamiat is one of the most influential resistance groups in the northern Afghan provinces, where at least three generals are reportedly at loggerheads with the pro-Kabul forces.

A Jamiat spokesman later told AFP that the representatives of at least two generals established secret contacts with Jamiat as the Kabul leader tried vainly to defuse the crisis, which erupted last month.

General Abdul Rashid of the Dostam militia reportedly joined the rebellion by commanders from the Kaihani militia after Najibollah asked a Pashtoon general, Juma Ashiq, to take the command of the force dominated by non-Pashtoon Tajik and Uzbek soldiers.

Reports said that as militia forces resisted Kabul's changes, the rebel soldiers fired on two Afghan aircraft last week at Hairatan town on the country's border with Uzbekistan, causing unknown casualties.

Resistance sources, quoting transport workers, said the highway had been closed since last week, causing sharp hikes in food and fuel prices in Kabul.

Rabbani scotched speculations about the disintegration of Afghanistan on ethnic lines as "enemy propaganda." A Tajik, he said that his party was a unifying force among all other ethnic groups.

He also defended an Iranian move to form an association for cultural cooperation embracing Farsi-speaking Tajiks, Hazaras and other groups of a similiar linguistic background.

Rabbani called it a "positive development" intended to re-establish "deep historic, cultural and religious relations with Central Asian republics bordering Afghanistan.

He condemned as "false propaganda" reports spread in Central Asia by the Kabul government that Afghan mojahedin had become "professional warriors" who would create trouble in the newly independent republics and perhaps even try to occupy their territory.

Role in 1989 Pakistani Airline Crash Denied

LD2902171792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On 26 February 1992, THE PAKISTAN TIMES published thoroughly tendentious information on the 1989 crash of a Pakistani civilian plane claiming the involvement of the Republic of Afghanistan in the incident and in the fate of the passengers. It is to be mentioned that the Afghan Government, expressing sorrow for the incident, made many efforts at the request of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to obtain information about the plane crash and the passengers since the plane came down in the Republic of Afghanistan. Unfortunately, despite the efforts of the Afghan Air Force, no information was obtained about the plane or its passengers. The Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was informed about the issue at that time.

It is to be regretted that a credible newspaper has published such irresponsible and vain and thoroughly false remarks as these. The Republic of Afghanistan categorically rejects these untruthful remarks, and believes that these types of tendentious claims are put forward by those individuals and circles who want to confuse the Pakistani public and create an obstacle to the normalization and improvement of relations between two neighborly Muslim countries.

Bangladesh

Relief for Burmese Refugees Said Insufficient

BK2902155492 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Rohingya Muslim refugee leaders have called upon voluntary organizations to gear up relief activities among the refugees, as their number is swelling every day with fresh arrivals. According to official sources, about 500 to 1,000 Rohingya Muslims are entering into Bangldesh from Myanmar [Burma] daily. Over 80,000 refugees have been sheltered in six camps in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts. Unofficial sources put the number of refugees at more than 1 lakh. The president of the Rohingya Muslim Samaj Kalyan Samiti [social welfare society] is quoted as saying that relief activities are not up to the requirement as only few voluntary organizations are now engaged in relief work. They appealed to voluntary social organizations both at home and abroad to come forward with more food, medicine, and other relief materials to help alleviate the suffering of the refugees.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Ganatandra Kendra [center of democracy], Rabta-al-Alam-al-Islami [World Muslim League] and a French voluntary organization are now carrying out relief operations for the refugees. The government has set up a relief coordination cell at Cox's Bazar for smooth handling of relief activities.

Relief Measures Detailed

BK2902163492 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] The Ministry of Relief has opened a bank account STD-12 entitled Myanmar Refugees Relief Fund with the Agrani Bank. The national press club branch of the Agrani Bank in Dhaka will receive cash donations from home and abroad to help the Myanmar refugees.

The government has allocated substantial quantity of relief materials and cash money for the Myanmar refugees in Bangladesh. An official handout issued in Dhaka today said relief materials and cash money so far allocated include 490 metric tons of rice, 240 metric tons of wheat, 2,100 tons of biscuits, 1,500 bundles of CI [corrugated iron] sheets, 17,000 pieces of cooking pots, 23,500 pieces of dish, 1,200 pieces of lamp, 2,000 cartons of powdered milk, 100 metric tons of pulses, 100 cartons of garments, 100 cartons of tea, 257 bags of sugar, 952 cartons of baby food, 80 cartons of tinned food, 108 cartons of tomato sauce, 2,000 cartons of other relief materials, and 52 lakh taka in cash.

Meanwhile, a two-member high power ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] delegation arrives in Dhaka tomorrow to see the plight of Rohingya Muslim refugees. Chairman of the permanent council of the Islamic Solidarity Fund, Ambassador Nasir Abdullah Hamdam and Ambassador (Abdullah Abdi Hasdi) will visit Bandarban and Cox's Bazaar districts where the refugees have taken shelter. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka today they will discuss with Bangladesh officials how far they can help thousands of the Rohingya refugees who have streamed into Bangladesh to escape torture and persecution by the Myanmar military junta. ICO and the member countries have shown keen interest in extending assistance to mitigate sufferings of the refugees. A

number of Muslim contries, including Iran and Kuwait, have come forward to aid the Rohingya Muslims evicted from their homes.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Development Bank, expressing full solidarity with Bangaldesh, has decided to send a mission to assess the extent and dimension of the Rohingya refugee problem.

Rahman on Refugee Problem

BK0103161492 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] The foreign minister says the international community is voicing concern at the continuing influx of Muslim refugees from Myanmar [Burma]. The international community is also appreciating Bangladesh's efforts to solve the problem in a correct and constructive manner. Mr. Mustafizur Rahman said this at a news conference in Dhaka today. The foreign minister returned home this morning from a tour of seven European and Arab countries. He said he explained the refugee problem to the governments of the countries he visited. Mr. Rahman said the visit was primarily intended to brief these countries on the magnitude of the refugee problem. Mr. Rahman reiterated Bangladesh's effort to resolve the refugee problem through discussion and expressed the hope Myanmar would positively respond to the situation.

A two-member ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] delegation arrived in Dhaka today. Shortly after arrival, the members of the delegation met the foreign minister and discussed issues relating to the Myanmar refugee problem. The delegation's visit to Bangladesh is in response to his appeal to the international community for (?food) and assistance for the Rohingya Muslims. The team will visit the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts.

Resources 'Extremely Limited'

BK2802135792 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Feb 92 p 5

[Editorial: "Refugees From Myanmar [Burma] and the Borders"]

[Text] We write to express our grateful appreciation of the promtitude with which the United Nation's High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] has responded to Bangladesh's appeal for help in meeting the situation created by the refugees from across the border with Myanmar. They keep trekking, in regular daily groups, into Bangladesh creating a real problem of shelter, food and health services.

We also express our gratitude to the French Humanitarian Organisation, Medicine Sans Frontieries (Doctors without border) for 38 tons of supplies being quickly flown to Bangladesh for the refugees, as well as the volunteers including doctors and nurses. While some of the refugees have been put in improvised shelters many are reported to be living outside of them in unspeakable conditions.

The latest turn in the refugee-influx-position showing a greater scarce create among them by local conditions (in Arakan) has come as a painful surprise to us at a time when we seemed to have seen signs of improvement in the overall Bangladesh Myanmar relations over the border-and-refugee issue, specially following the fourth flag meeting between the two countries. [sentence as published]

The increased flow of Rohingya refugees plus reports about more troops and weapons being deployed along the border tends to suggest that as far as Myanmar is concerned the situation has hardly changed enough to support our optimism. We still hope for better results to be produced by renewed diplomatic efforts and the Myanmar government responding with equal interest to avoid any reescalation of tension at the border. For both Myanmar and Bangladesh to get drawn into a collision course or actual collision might have results for both to deeply regret.

The immediate need therefore is for Myanmar to withdraw its troops reportedly deployed off Bangladesh border as a gesture of peace and good neighbourliness.

To return to refugees, there is more than helping with money for the United nations to do. The one lakh US dollar sanctioned by UNHCR, while it is thankfully received falls far short of the actual need. It is hoped the UN team now in Dhaka, having assessed the actual size of the problem, will have reason to recommend more funds to cope with the relief needs of the situation. As for the tension that looks like intensifying between the two countries the UN peace-keeping role will have much to do before the situation slides further.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister is at the moment touring eight foreign countries to discuss with them Bangladesh's problems with its neighbour Myanmar and the refugees. The more important part of his mission and the overall necessity under the circumstances created at the border is that the international community would also play its part in helping prevent any breach of the peace at the Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

The number of refugees has swelled from around 50 thousand about a month ago to about one lakh and, on present showing, is going to increase further. Bangladesh's capacity to provide them with even a minimum standard of shelter, food and medicare is extremely limited. The plight of the refugees, with the end of the winter and the beginning of the rains and storms, can be foreseen to turn far worse. Hence the need for international help in cash and kind on an emergency basis.

But the greater need is a permanent settlement of the border dispute between two so close neighbours. We suggest fresh initiatives for more flag meetings at the border security-forces- level of both countries as well as

a fresh negotiation at the diplomatic level particularly between the foreign ministers or the heads of state, of both countries.

All this is an immediate need and both governments would be well-advised to take the situation more seriously and work out a political solution by a sincere joint initiative.

Foreign Minister Meets Bahraini Premier

BK2802132492 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Bahrain has expressed keen interest to take more manpower from Bangladesh. This was stated by Bahrain Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman al Khalifah when visiting Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman called on him on Wednesday [26 February]. Shaykh Khalifah also expressed his satisfaction at the quality of Bangladeshis working in Bahrain.

Earlier, Bangladesh foreign minister met Foreign Minister of Bahrain Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak aL Khalifah. Both the foreign ministers also agreed to establish soon a joint economic commission of the two countries. Mr. Mustafizur Rahman briefed Bahrain foreign minister about the current influx of Myanmar [Burmese] refugees into Bangladesh and consequent impact on the country's economy.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh missions abroad have been directed to open accounts immediately to receive donations for the Myanmar refugees. The missions will receive contributions from both individuals and organizations for the refugees. Bangladesh has recently appealed to the international community to come forward in support of the tens of thousands of the Rohingya Muslims who crossed into the country to escape persecution by the Myanmar military junta.

50 Injured as Ershad Supporters Attacked

BK2902133692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1227 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 29 (AFP)—At least 50 people were injured Saturday when a rally organised by deposed Bangladesh president Hussain Mohammad Ershad's Jatiya Party (JP) ended in pandemonium, witnesses said.

An AFP photographer at the scene said the procession of several hundred JP activists was attacked by an almost equal number of unidentified people. "Both sides were carrying guns and knives," he said, adding that homemade bombs were set off by the activists.

Witnesses said the stage for the rally was set ablaze, forcing party leaders to run for safety, but they managed to call for a day- long general strike Sunday to protest the incident.

Police guarding the suburban Sayedabad area venue of the rally initially watched on and then fired some 100 tear gas shells when JP supporters attacked a police jeep, but the the two groups continued to fight.

Doctors at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital told AFP that 30 injured people, 15 of them with serious bullet and splinter injuries were being treated there.

The injured includes one news photographer who was hit with a bullet in his head, they said.

This is the second JP rally to have ended in pandemonium during the past four months.

A community club frequented by Bangladesh Nationalist Party activists in nearby Gopibagh area was also set ablaze, with the fire spreading to several adjacent shops and houses, the witnesses added.

The attackers were suspected to be activists of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as police had ignored their attack, a local reporter at the scene said.

The JP earlier announced it would hold a "grand rally" demanding Ershad's immediate release at the Manik Miah Avenue in front of the national parliament building, the usual venue for major political rallies.

The party had to move the rally to Sayedabad after failing to get permission from the authorities.

"Up to 10,000 JP supporters had gathered for the meet to demand Ershad's immediate release," the photographer said.

Witnesses said except for several hundred JP activists, most other people ran for safety when the rally came under attack.

Reporters covering the rally said that the JP claimed one of its supporters was killed in the clash, but no independent confirmation was available.

Ershad, Bangladesh's longest serving head of state, seized power in a bloodless coup in 1982 and was toppled in Decemeber 1990 following a mass upsurge against his rule.

He is now held at the Dhaka Central Jail and has been sentenced to 13 years jail term for corruption. He still faces several other graft charges.

JP leaders were quoted Saturday by the local press as saying that they were disappointed by the government decision not to permit them to hold their rally at the Manik Miah avenue.

The JP is Bangladesh's second largest opposition party with 35 seats in the 330-member parliament.

ADB To Give Loan, Grant for Irrigation Project

BK2702140492 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Bangladesh is to receive a $39.8 million loan and a technical assistance grant worth $790,000 from the Asian Development Bank [ADB] for an irrigation project. The ADB loan will finance excavation and sanctioning [as heard] of 657 km of inland creek and installation of over 177 low-lift pumps to augment the supply of fresh water to coastal areas. The loan is payable in 40 years including a 10-year grace period. The technical assistance from the ADB [words indistinct] Japan special fund will be used to finance the operation and maintenance aspects of the project.

Accord Signed With Azerbaijan on Diplomatic Ties

BK2902160492 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Bangladesh and Azerbaijan have signed a protocol establishing diplomatic and consular relations between the two countries. Visiting Bangladeshi State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan and Azerbaijani Prime Minister Gasan Aziz Gasanov have signed the accords in Baku. An official handout issued in Dhaka today said the two sides also signed the agreement on bilateral cooperation in the field of trade, economic, scientific, and cultural developments.

India

Reports Detail Government Budget Plan

Rupee To Be Partly Convertible

BK2902133992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] The Exim [Export-Import Bank] scrip has been replaced by the rupee being made partly convertible. Presenting the union budget, the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, told the Lok Sabha today that 40 percent of all foreign exchange remittances will be converted to rupees at the official exchange rate while the remaining 60 percent will be convertible at the market rate by banks. Consequent on this, import restrictions have been removed making goods freely importable through the OGL [open general licence]. However, restrictions will continue on a specified list of raw materials and consumer goods.

The government has liberalized the import of gold. The budget proposes that returning Indians be permitted to bring in 5 kilograms of gold after paying a modest duty, provided it is financed foreign exchange earned abroad. The government has introduced a gold bond scheme with a maturity period of five to seven years. The investments in the gold bond will not attract wealth or gift tax and there will also be no query regarding the source of gold. The scheme is aimed at curbing gold smuggling.

The finance minister said the government has successfully tackled the macroeconomic situation and reduced the fiscal deficit to 6.5 percent of gross domestic product in 1991-92, from 8.4 percent in 1990-91. Dr. Manmohan Singh said the fiscal deficit in the revised estimates for 1991-92 has now come to 37,732 crore rupees, compared to the budget estimate of 37,722 crore rupees. He said the revised estimate is much lower than the fiscal deficit of 44,650 crore rupees of 1990-91. The fiscal deficit includes all the borrowings of the government. Dr. Singh said the budget deficit for the current year has been successfully brought down to 7,032 crore rupees, according to the revised estimates, as against the budgetary target of 7,719 crores. He said the shortfall of 3,760 crore rupees on customs fund has been offset by higher realization from excise revenue and income tax. Dr. Singh said on the whole the total revenue realization has reached 1 lakh 6,070 crore rupees against the budget estimate of 1 lakh 5,703 crore rupees during 1990-91.

The presentation of the union budget in the Lok Sabha was delayed by about 20 minutes by the leaders of the National Front and left parties alleging that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund [IMF] have been allowed to monitor the performance of our economy. They demanded that rights of the members of Parliament be protected and wanted to know from the finance minister the extent of the discussions the government had with the IMF and the World Bank during the mid-term review. The leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, said a serious violation would have been committed if the Chelliah Committee report had been discussed with the World Bank. The Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh asserted there was no budget leakage and he has not committed any inpropriety. Describing the Chelliah Committee report as a top secret document, the minister declared that the government does not share the report with anybody.

Budget Highlights Outlined

BK2902151092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1335 GMT 29 Feb 92

["Special Budget Bulletin"]

[Text] A raise in the income tax exemption limits, lowering of the maximum import duty, a new system to replace the existing Exim [Export-Import Bank] scrips leading to partial convertibility of the rupee and reduction in the statutory liquidity ratio of commercial banks are the highlights of the union budget for 1992-93 presented to the parliament a short while ago. The union finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has proposed to remove the government control over capital issues, including premium fixation. He announced a number of schemes to tone up the money market and the capital market. He also proposed to make the import of certain

capital goods cheaper while increasing the excise duty on a number of items, including cigarettes, watches, cement, paints, tires, and tubes. The corporate tax has, however, been left untouched.

The finance minister expects a distinct improvement in the performance of the economy in 1992-93 despite a 2.5 percent expected growth of the Gross Domestic Product, GDP, in the current financial year. He hopes that the economy will return to high growth in 1993- 94.

Several recommendations of the Chaliha Committee on taxation and of the Narasimham Committee on financial system have been accepted. The finance minister said the government proposes to implement the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee in a phased manner. The thrust of the recommendations is to move to a more efficient and competitive banking system. He said the detailed recommendations of the Chaliha Committee on corporate taxation have not been received and major restructuring in this area has been deferred.

The income tax exemption limit on income has been raised to 28,000 rupees from 22,000 rupees. The finance minister has proposed a three-slab income tax structure. The tax rate up to 50,000 rupees will be 20 percent, up to 100,000 rupees 30 percent, and above 100,000 the rate will be 40 percent. The surcharge has been retained at 12 percent for one more year, but will now be payable for income above 100,000 rupees. A presumptive income tax system has been proposed in respect of shopkeepers and other retail traders with an annual turnover up to 500,000 rupees. They will have to pay only 1,400 rupees as tax in a year and accounting procedures have been simplified for them.

The standard deduction in respect of working women having total income up to 75,000 rupees has been increased to 15,000 rupees. The Bhopal gas disaster victims have been exempted from income tax on the compensation amount received by them.

The sections 80L, 80 CC A, and 80 CC B of Income Tax Act have been abolished. Contributions to mutual funds will hence be eligible for tax rebate. Income tax exemption on voluntary retirement benefits has been extended to private sector employees. The finance minister has proposed to abolish tax deduction at source on term deposit interests in banks. The basic exemption limit on wealth tax has been fixed at 15 lakh rupees. The tax rate will be 1 percent. Although there is no change in the corporate tax rate and surcharge, the finance minister has proposed two changes in carried- forward depreciation and investment allowance. Dr. Manmohan Singh also assured that a bill on direct taxes code will be brought soon to integrate all the three direct taxes so as to make the law easily understandable and the tax administration simpler.

The basic as well as auxiliary import duty rates at the peak tariff level has been brought down to 110 percent from 150 percent, except on passenger baggage and alcoholic beverages.

Import duty on 15 specified pesticides has been reduced from 110 percent to 75 percent. On two pesticide intermediates, the import duty has been reduced from 120 percent to 65 percent, while three other intermediates have been completely exempted from excise duty.

The import duty on oil seeds, vegetable seeds, and flowers has been completely abolished. The finance minister has also proposed to exempt the glazed newsprint from import duty. He also announced that a settlement commission will be established for dealing with customs and central excise disputes. The excise duty on cotton yarn is to be rationalized.

The finance minister has proposed to reduce the multiplicity of rates by having only five duty slabs. The basic excise duty on viscose fiber has been raised by 1 rupee 50 paise per kg, on viscose filament yarn by 3 rupees per kg, and on acrylic fiber it has been increased from 9 rupees 24 paise per kg to 12 rupees. He said several units in nylon and polyester filament yarn industry are facing difficult times. As a relief, the finance minister has proposed to reduce the excise duty on nylon-filament yarn by 8 rupees per kg. The import duty on caprolactam has been reduced from 80 percent to 50 percent, and the excise duty on polyester filament yarn from 70 rupees to 62 rupees per kg. To promote the use of jute by handloom sector, jute yarn in hanks has been exempted from excise duty. Jute products manufactured in rural areas by cooperative societies have also been fully exempted from excise duty. While the excise duty on nonfilter cigarettes up to 60-mm-long remains the same, the duties on all other cigarettes have been increased by 30 to 100 rupees per thousand depending on the length. Excise duty on watches will go up from 5 to 10 percent. The excise on cement has been raised from 215 rupees to 290 rupees per metric ton. However, the duty on white cement will be reduced from 40 to 35 percent. The finance minister proposes to rationalize the excise duty rate on two-wheelers by reducing it to two slabs. Two-wheelers with engine capacity up to 75 cc are to be taxed at 15 percent, while the rest will attract 25 percent.

On light commercial vehicles, the excise duty has been raised from 10 to 15 percent. While the excise on moped tires has been reduced by 5 rupees per tire, tires and tubes for other vehicles are to cost more because of fresh excise.

While the direct tax proposals will bring a net revenue of 795 crore rupees, the 1992-93 budget will also be a deficit budget. The net deficit estimated at 5,389 crore rupees as against 37,792 crore rupees estimated for the current financial year. The net fiscal deficit is estimated at 34,408 crore rupees as against 37,792 crore rupees in the revised estimates for 1991-92.

The finance minister has proposed a new scheme of partial convertibility or the rupee to replace the existing Exim [Export-Import Bank] scrips. Under this 40 percent of all foreign exchange remittances earned through

export of goods services and remittances can be converted to rupees at the official exchange rate while 60 percent will be converted at the market determined rate. The foreign exchange surrendered at official exchange rates will be available to meet the requirements of essential imports such as petroleum and oil products, fertilizers, defense, and life-saving drugs. All other imports of raw materials, components, and capital goods will be freely allowed on open general license, but the foreign exchange from these imports will have to be obtained from the market. There will be no change in the import policy for consumer goods, which will remain restricted. Foreign exchange required for other payments on private account, including travel, debt service payments, dividends, royalties and other remittances will have to be obtained at the market rate. The finance minister said, instead of the premium on the exim scrips, exporters will have the premium of 60 percent of their earnings in the foreign exchange market.

The finance minister has proposed a gold bond scheme. The bond will mature in five to seven years and can be liquidated by the return of gold or equivalent value. It will not attract income tax, wealth tax, and gift tax. The minister also announced that Indians and persons of Indian origin will be allowed to bring up to 5 kgs of gold by paying import duty of 450 rupees on every 10 grams. This duty has to be paid in convertible foreign exchange. The Foreign Exchange Regulation Act—FERA—is to be amended so as to bring it in line with the requirements of the new policy.

In keeping with the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee on financial system the government has decided to reduce the Statutory Liquity Ratio—SLR—on implemented domestic liabilities of commercial banks to 30 percent from the earlier level of 38.5 percent. The finance minister said this will reduce the government's need to borrow from commercial banks and release funds for banks to expand credit to agriculture and industry. He said the market borrowings of the states will not be affected.

Dr. Manmohan Singh said in view of the decline in the inflation rate, the floor level of interest rates on commercial advances is to be reduced by 1 percent. He said the equity holding of public sector enterprises are to be further disinvested to mop up 2,500 crore rupees for development. The government will consider a further sale of equity of 1,000 crore rupees to provide resources to the national renewal fund in 1992-93.

On the controversial issue of fertilizer subsidy, the finance minister said a parliamentary committee is now looking into the fertilizer pricing policy and a decision will be taken later this year. He has, however, provided 5,000 crore rupees on fertilizer subsidy during the coming year. A sum of 2,500 crore rupees of food subsidy has also been provided.

The defense outlay has been increased by 7 percent from 16,350 crore rupees in the current year to 17,500 crore rupees.

The finance minister announced that the government has accepted the recommendations of the committee which went into the one-rank one-pension issue. He announced an ad hoc increase in the pension rates of the defense personnel with effect from 1 January this year to benefit over 6 lakh defense pensioners. The finance minister said stabilization and structural adjustments are never painless or quick, especially when imbalances and structural rigidities built up over several years are sought to be removed. He said structural reforms cannot be postponed. But at the same time the burden of such adjustment on the poorer and weaker people should be minimum. He reiterated that the IMF and the World Bank conditions that have been accepted reflected nothing more than the reform programs outlined in his letter of intent to the IMF and the World Bank.

The finance minister's speech to the joint session of parliament was simultaneously broadcast by AIR [All India Radio] and telecast by Doordarshan [Indian television].

Twenty- three paise of every rupee in the budget outlay come from the excise duties, 18 paise each from the customs duty and internal borrowings, 14 paise from nontax revenue, six paise each from corporate tax, income tax and other capital receipts, two paise from other taxes, four paise from Reserve Bank borrowings, and three paise from external borrowings. Out of every rupee coming into the budget, 75 paise account for the receipts and 25 paise come from borrowings. In an outgoing rupee, 23 paise account for interests, 14 paise go toward the share of taxes and duties of the states, 13 paise each account for central plans and defense, 12 paise go toward plan assistance to the states and Union Territories, and another 12 paise on other nonplan expenditure.

Further on Budget Allotments

BK0103040592 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Feb 92

[All figures as received]

[Excerpts] Introduction of the partial convertibility of the rupee, enhancement of income tax exemption limit, a tax system for shopkeepers and retailers, increase of special excise duty by 5 percent, relief for agriculture, petrochemical industry, two-wheeler industry, reduction of statutory liquidity ratio, measures to strengthen capital market, introduction of gold bond scheme, a 7-percent increase for defense, and reduction of fiscal deficit by over 3,300 crore rupees are the highlights of the budget presented by the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in parliament today.

[Begin Singh recording] ...fiscal year now drawing to a close has been a difficult one by any standard. It has been

a year of crisis and of crisis management. It has also been a year of great economic challenges and bold new initiatives. [end recording]

It envisages total receipts of 113,698 crore rupees. The expenditure being 119,087 crore rupees with a budgetary deficit of 5,389 crore rupees. [passage omitted]

An amount of 17,500 crore rupees has been provided for the defense services. This is 1,150 crore rupees more than the amount available for the current financial year. The government has accepted the recommendations of the (Ambad) Committee on one-rank- one-pension for retired personnel. This will be effective from the 1st of January 1992.

States and Union Territories will get in all a little over 1,400 crore rupees more by way of central assistance during the current financial year. The total central sector plan outlay for 1992-93 has been fixed at 48,407 crore rupees as against about 43,000 rupees provided for the current year.

Dr. Manmohan Singh began his ministerial career with a commitment that he would progressively reduce the fiscal deficit and budgetary deficit. He succeeded in limiting both the deficits during the current year to the amount he projected in the budget for 1991-92. The estimate of fiscal and budgetary deficit for 1992-93 show the government's commitment to further reduce deficits. The fiscal deficit for the coming year will be 34,408 crore rupees. This is 3,319 crore rupees less than the fiscal deficit for the current year. The budgetary deficit for the coming financial year will be 5,389 crore rupees. This will be 2,330 crore rupees less than the budgetary deficit for the current year.

Important announcements have been made in the budget proposals to improve the financial system. The statutory liquidity ratio is being reduced from 38.5 percent to 30 percent. This will release funds for banks to expand credit to agriculture and industry. This will also reduce the central government's need to borrow from commercial banks.

Another important proposal is the fall [as heard] level of interest rates of commercial advances made by banks, which is to be reduced by one percent. The measures announced in the budget will also cover the capital markets. Companies with a good track record will now be given permission to issue debentures and equity to investors abroad. These issues will enjoy the same tax benefits which are available for off-shore mutual funds.

The government will consider methods of allowing reputable foreign investors to invest in the Indian capital market. As part of encouraging foreign investors in critical infrastructural sector, the government will welcome proposals for foreign investments in the production, refining, and marketing of oil and gas.

Dr. Manmohan Singh has announced the setting up of small farmers agro-business consortium to generate income and employment in rural areas. The consortium will be funded by the Reserve Bank of India, NABARD and IDBI [National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development and Industrial Development Bank of India]. It will organize 12 major projects in different parts of the country. The program will be gradually expanded.

The finance minister reiterated the government's commitment to continue funding and revamping the various poverty alleviation schemes. He made it very clear that the government is firmly resolved to protect the interests of the labor while dealing with the problem of industrial sickness. He said about 1,000 crore rupees will be available for the national renewal fund from the International Development Association.

The budget has made an allocation of 2,500 crore rupees as food subsidy. An additional 250 crore rupees has been made available for the revamped public distribution system being implemented in 1,000 backward blocks. There is no further reduction in the fertilizer subsidy. A parliamentary committee is currently looking into the issue. The government will take a decision after getting the committee's report.

The government raised 2,500 crore rupees by disinvesting equity of public sector enterprises during the current year. The government will consider a further sale of equity of 1,000 crore rupees to provide resources to the national renewal fund. The government has decided to do away with control of capital issues in order to ensure the healthy development of the capital market.

In an interview shortly after presenting the budget, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that adequate measures have been taken in the budget to contain inflation. He was speaking to our correspondent Vanita Dipak.

[Begin Singh recording] ...is to keep a firm control on fiscal deficit. That I have succeeded. I had promised the nation last year that I would reduce the fiscal deficit to 6.5 percent of GDP [Gross Domestic Product]. I have fulfilled that promise. I had promised the nation... [changes thought] the budget deficit, I have done better than what I had promised. I had promised certain level of the total government expenditure. We have reduced the expenditure below the budget figure for the first time in the history of this nation. If we persist with this type of behavior and if we regain mastery over fiscal... [changes thought] if we reduce the fiscal deficit further in 1992-93 as I have proposed, I have no doubt we will regain mastery over inflationary (?repetition). [end recording]

Finance Secretary Briefs Press

BK0103102292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] The union budget for 1992-93 has proposed a comprehensive policy framework to increase the Gross

Domestic Product—GDP—with simultaneous reduction in the rate of inflation. Addressing a post-budget news conference in New Delhi today, the finance secretary, Mr. Gita Krishnan, said the budget has been presented in the backdrop of encouraging trends like growing foreign exchange reserves, increased NRI [nonresident Indian] remittances, and a decline in inflation rate from over 16 percent last year to around 12 percent now. Mr. Krishnan said instead of attempting piecemeal solutions to economic problems, the union budget has proposed various mechanisms to tone up exports, generate employment, and to boost productivity ensuring adequate flow of resources to the states for poverty alleviation programs and increasing the competitiveness of Indian products in the world market.

Allaying fears that the decision to convert the rupee partially for trade purposes will result in a boom in the black market, the secretary, economic affairs, Mr. Montague Singh Aluwalia, said the endeavor is to clean up the foreign exchange market but with the discretionary power to the reserve bank. He said whenever the exchange market becomes volatile owing to scarcity of foreign currencies, the RBI will intervene to restore the imbalance. Mr. Aluwalia said the union budget has adopted inflation control measures to ameliorate the sufferings of the weaker sections instead of launching more poverty alleviation programs without adequate targeting. He said the budget aims at stabilizing economy by cutting fiscal deficit, strengthening foreign exchange market, revamping public distribution system, and making relevant changes in tax administration for better yield. Mr. Aluwalia expressed the hope that as the government has succeeded in bringing down the inflation rate in the last seven-eight months and as there is positive response of the economic reforms, the inflation rate is likely to be brought down to single digit by the end of coming financial year.

'Mixed' Reaction to Budget

BK2902161392 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] The budget has evoked mixed reactions. Giving his reaction, the prime minister said the main thrust has been to avoid putting any burden on the common man. Mr. Narasimha Rao said impediments on the implementation of the economic policies and programs have been removed, and the budget will help in speedy economic development. Talking to AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent Ratan Salve, Mr. Rao said inflation will be brought down to a single digit if weather favors.

[Begin Rao recording] The common man, the poorest of the poor have been positively helped, the middle class has been given lot of concessions, and to the extent of the rich classes, well, they may have to bear a little more than before. And I think, this is as it should be. The vast majority of the people in this country will not suffer, will not be under any additional burden as a result of the budget, while as I said the poorer classes will definitely get a positive help from several provisions contained in the budget. [end recording]

The leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, Mr. L.K. Advani, said the budget does not provide any relief to the common man. While welcoming the tax reforms, he said there is no indication as yet of any leakage of the budgetary proposals.

The former finance minister and Janata Dal leader, Mr. Madhu Dandavate, described the budget as inflationary. The Janata Dal leader, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, said the government is seeking to give legitimacy to gold smuggling. The leader of the opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said despite a cosmetic treatment, the budget reflects all the commitments made to the World Bank.

Further Reaction Reported

BK0103043092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Apex bodies of trade and industry have generally welcomed the union budget. However, they have expressed reservation about the imposition of special excise duty and a proposal to reduce depreciation and investment allowance. The president of the Indian Federation of Commerce and Industry, Dr. V.L. Dutt, has described the budget as very pragmatic and constructive. He said it will stimulate growth. The president of the Confederation of Indian Industry, Mr. Dhruv Sahni, has said that the budget proposals will have a positive impact on the capital market. The president of the PHD [Punjab, Haryana and Delhi] Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Raghupati Singhania, has complimented the finance minister for containing the fiscal deficit to 6.5 percent. The Merchants Chamber of Commerce, the National Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs, and the Forum of Commerce and Industry have also hailed the budget.

The Steel Chamber of India have expressed disappointment over no relief for the secondary steel sector. Noted industrialists—Mr. Raunaq Singh, Mr. R.P. Goenka, Mr. Hari Shanker Singhania, and Mr. J.S. Bhasin—have complimented the finance minister for the budget proposals. The stock market circles in the capital market have also received the budget with enthusiasm describing it as a historic budget.

The political parties have reacted generally on party lines. The Congress-I has hailed the budget, while the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] welcomed certain schemes. National Front and left parties have alleged that the whole exercise has been done at the dictate of the World Bank. Describing the budget as a judicious combination of sound economic and social awareness, the Congress-I spokesman, Professor C.P. Thakur, said the budget is growth-oriented and would promote employment opportunities.

The senior BJP leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, welcoming the proposal for gold bond has said that the success of the scheme will depend on its implementation. The Janata Dal leader, Mr. V.P. Singh, has criticized the budget stating it to be very hard which will further impoverish the poor. The National Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, has described the budget as a faithful response to the conditions and restrictions imposed by the world bank and IMF. The SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party] leader, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has said the budget is very attractive, but it is addressed to only 5 percent of the population. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India] leader in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Somnath Chatterji, has described the budget as antipeople. The CPI (Communist Party of India] general secretary, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, has called the budget as innovative. The All India Forward Bloc general secretary, Mr. Chitta Basu, has said the budget reflects increasing trends toward privatization. The RSP [Revolutionary Social Party] leader, Mr. Nani Bhattacharya, has said the common man will be hard hit by the budget proposals. The Indian People's Front has described the budget as a sellout to the foreign capital. The Center of Indian Trade Unions has criticized the proposed increase in the excise duty on certain items. The chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have appreciated the budget, while the chief ministers of West Bengal and Bihar have criticized it.

RBI Head on Rupee Convertibility

BK0103102992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] The Reserve Bank [of India—RBI] governor, Mr. S. Venkataramanan, has said that the RBI will intervene to prevent any volatility in the currency market following the partial convertibility of the rupee. Talking to reporters in Bombay, he said that the convertibility will increase the value of the rupee. Mr. Venkataramanan said the market mechanism will also ensure the flow of capital into the country which might have been stashed away abroad. The liberalization will increase global competitiveness to the exporters and offer them greater incentive to bring back their earnings. Under the new scheme announced in the union budget yesterday, 60 percent of the exchange earnings can be converted to rupee at the market determined rate. While the official rate will continue to be announced by the RBI, indicative free market exchange rate is to be announced by the Foreign Exchange Dealers Association of India on every business day.

Article Favors Building Nuclear Arsenal

BK2802101592 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 19 Feb 92 p 13

[K. Subrahmanyam Article: "Nuclear Deterrent is Cheaper"]

[Text] It needs no astrologer to predict that the defence allocations in the forthcoming budget will register a fall in real terms taking into account the decline in the value of the rupee and the inflation. No one with a realistic view of our economic situation can find fault with that either. The nation and the Services have to learn to live with a progressively decreasing allocation for defence till such time when our economy turns the corner. At the same time it has to be recognised that our immediate security environment continues to cause concern in spite of overall improvement in the international security climate. As of writing this we face a confrontational situation on the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan has admitted that it is in possession of nuclear weapons, the sole justification for which is their animosity towards this country. We are also moving into a situation in which it may be increasingly difficult for this country to obtain sophisticated weaponry of its choice and need from industrialised countries because of the additional restraints likely to be imposed. The internal turbulences in India are likely to be further fuelled by ethnicity based nationalism unleashed by developments in the erstwhile Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Eastern Europe and this in turn is likely to call for expansion of our para-military and Central police forces and intelligence services. The solution to this highly complex set of problems of coexisting peacefully with a nuclear Pakistan, dealing effectively with ongoing insurgencies, nipping in the bud any burgeoning fissiparous tendencies, providing for further long-term armament needs of the country and accomplishing all these tasks within a reduced defence outlay is not the task for an overburdened Finance Minister or Defence Minister alone but for the Government as a whole. Unfortunately, in the absence of a National Security Council set-up our Government does not have the appropriate machinery to do the comprehensive staff work for this exceedingly complicated task.

Against this background, one can attempt to outline the broad parameters of a strategy that would meet the imperatives of our current security situation and economic crunch. They are the following: (i) In view of Pakistani admission of having acquired nuclear weapons India must develop, without any publicity, a minimum deterrent arsenal. That would not be very costly as people who have not done any worthwhile calculations proclaim. In fact it could be accommodated within the current budget levels by suitable reallocation. (ii) Our R&D [Research and Development] should be strengthened further and our Arjun, LCA [Light Combat Aircraft], Agni and other missile programmes should be accelerated. Those who advocate scrapping Arjun and LCA programmes are wittingly or unwittingly making this country's security a hostage to Western arms exporters. (iii) Our intelligence and paramilitary forces must be expanded. An integrated manpower policy in respect of para-military forces and the army has been proposed by Mr Arun Singh. That proposal must be implemented. Similarly he has suggested integrating, streamlining and regionalising central police force. The first policy would save money on the pension costs for exservicemen. (iv) Our ordnance factories should be

reorganised. Factories making stores that can be produced by civil sector should be privatised. There should be much greater interaction between civil sector including private sector and the ordnance factories. The ordnance factories should diversify their production lines to ensure full capacity utilisation and optimal productivity of the work-force. The same applies to public sector units. The aero- space and electronic units should be made into a separate department to concentrate on development and production of missiles, aircraft and high-tech electronic items. The present department of defence production is too unwieldy. (v) Manpower in the armed forces has to be reduced. Barring some experimentation in 1986-88 various Army organisations are essentially those inherited from the Second World War. In the rest of the world, organisational reforms have been carried out taking into account the increased firepower, mobility and communication capabilities. A high-powered professional panel is required to evaluate how much the manpower can be reduced without in anyway impairing the combat effectiveness of units.

Further if Mr Arun Singh's suggestion of recruiting initially to the para-military and central police forces and deputing those men for three-year service in the Army is accepted there will be some reserve trained manpower available in case of emergency. Taking into account the international security environment and our improving relations with China, serious consideration should be given to cut back on the Army manpower. Force multipliers to step up the effectiveness of the Army should be procured and this must be the Central thrust of our effort in the next few years. (vi) Our naval plans may have to be reviewed to adjust the future naval expenditute within our budgetary constraints for the next few years till our economic growth accelerates and we are out of the woods. (vii) Thai Air Force's combat and airlift effectiveness should be left untouched while inhouse economies should be explored. Ways and means should be found to augment the Air Force effectiveness with force multipliers. (viii) The border with Pakistan should be sealed execpt for authorised transit routes. Mining, vegetation-free fire zone, technological devices to warn of border crossing and night vision devices will have to be used on a large scale. The Government should have the political will to crackdown ruthlessly on border smuggling and narcotics trade. There is far more interaction between these factors and Pakistani capability to conduct a low-intensity conflict than is generally admitted in public.

These are only illustrative. There are of course a number of ways in which wastages can be reduced but that is not a problem specific to Armed Forces, but the Government of this country as a whole. The biggest factors contributing to wastage in economy are corruption (both political and bureaucratic); incompetence and inefficiency. Whoever has calculated the economic and social costs of holidays to mourn unlamented leaders, political bandhs, obscenely large Cabinets, delays in decision-making, lack of accountability, late running of aircraft, trains and buses?

But of twin threats India faces from the North and the West, in the present circumstances the threat from the North appears to be manageable. If India were to cut manpower equivalent of some four to five divisions of the Army uinilaterally that, along with cuts in real terms in our defence budget in the last three years, will be a powerful arguments in the international forums. This can be done without undue risk if India were to exercise the nuclear option. that would reduce significantly the probability of Indo-Pakistan war. Given India's equipment superiority such reduction in manpower will not increase the vulnerability of this country. Once India and Pakistan accept each other's nuclear status and a situation of mutual deterrence exists, it should also be possible to embark upon negotiations for mutual confidence-building measures and conventional arms reductions either on a mutually agreed basis or on unilateral reduction on one side compelling a similar reduction on the other side.

The usual argument against this sensible course of action is that it will trigger off a nuclear arms race and India cannot afford it. Such an argument has largely been borrowed from the Western pundits who mindlessly formulated strategic doctrines which led to building up arsenals of sizes which now pose very grave problems in reducing them safely and disposing of the fissile materials from them. The Western strategists are the last people whose advice should be sought or accepted.

They generally assume that the rest of the world would also commit their stupendous blunders in respect of nuclear strategy. It is most unlikely that India or even Pakistan will indulge in the follies of the Western and Soviet strategists. Already Dr Homi Bhabha showed to the world that by reversing the sequence followed in the West, India can have nuclear weapons capability at negligible cost. Instead of spending billions of rupees to develop the first prototype of the bomb (even China spent some two to four billion US dollars) India derived its capability as a spin-off from its civil nuclear programme.

It is enough if India were to develop a minimum deterrent arsenal of a few scores of weapons and appropriate survivable mobile delivery systems irrespective of what Pakistan or China possess. The world has come around to the view that a nuclear war cannot be fought and won. No one today believes in the spurious doctrines of counter-force, nuclear war fighting and worse still of trying to destroy the fabric of adversary's society. Such exotic doctrines of Western strategists were rationalisations for continuous production of successive generations of warheads running into tens of thousands. A war involving use of such arsenals also needed an extremely expensive multi-redundant command and control, communication and intelligence systems. All these are not

needed for exercise of simple deterrence without contemplating the criminal folly of fighting a nuclear war. Neither China nor Pakistan will consider it worthwhile to fight a war with India for any objective conceivable in the present context which will involve loss of even a few hundred thousand casualties, and two or three cities. Nor will any sane Indian do so. Building up a deterrent for such a limited purpose is not very costly. For a sensible Indian planner with India having a minimum deterrent of a few scores of first generation nuclear warheads and survivable delivery systems to match there is no need to enter into an arms race with any other country. That minimum deterrent can serve our purpose as effectively as anything many times that size can do and therefore why should one waste money on a larger arsenal? One hopes that Pakistan will adopt this policy and consequently there will be no arms race. If they do not and start accumulating a larger arsenal, there is absolutely no need for India to follow suit. Pakistan can waste its resources and court economic ruin if it chooses to.

Some years ago costing was attempted of the above type of arsenal and it came to about Rs 5,000 crore at the then prevalent prices over a period of 10 years. Now it may be Rs 10,000 crore at current prices perhaps over a period of some seven years since the country had advanced further technologically.

Along with such a policy of defence preparedness India should also launch on a vigorous diplomatic engagement with Pakistan. Already a proposal for a mutual no-first-use agreement has been suggested in this country. Pakistanis now realise that their nuclear weapon-free zone proposal is unimplementable with their possession of nuclear weapon out in the open. General Khalid Mohammed Arif who used to be an important member of the Steering Committee for the Pakistani bomb project has conceded in an article in DAWN (Feb. 3, 1992) that "prevailing realities indicate that the proposal of a nuclear-free South Asia has been overtaken by time. There is a need now to discuss a proposal for creating a nuclear weapon-safe South Asia. This would be a pragmatic approach to prevent nuclear blackmail in the subcontinent." In other words, Pakistan is likely to be in a receptive mood to discuss a mutual no-first-use agreement.

Once Pakistan has got recognition as a nuclear weapon power and thereby its hankering after equality with India is satisfied, it might settle down to negotiate mutual arms reduction. The economic compulsions on Pakistan is more severe than on India and they would also know that a war is unthinkable. Therefore controlling defence expenditure and at the same time obtaining optimum security are feasible if India stops its policy of drift and starts formulating a pragmatic policy framework uninfluenced by wisdom from Western nuclear strategists who have brought the world to the present situation of uncontrolled proliferation, following the breakdown of the Soviet Union.

Police Among 7 Killed Uttar Pradesh

BK2802160492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, militants shot dead seven persons including five policemen in Bankia village near Sitarganj in Nainital District this afternoon. An official spokesman told our Lucknow correspondent that the policemen, including a subinspector, were on patrol duty when the militants attacked them. The militants escaped with two rifles of the slain policemen. Senior police officials of Bareilly, Nainital, Pilibhit, and Shahjahanpur districts have reached the spot to supervise the combing operations to nab the militants.

Violence, Unrest in Kashmir as Strike Enters

BK2802163292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1031 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Jammu, India, Feb 28 (AFP)—A strike called by Moslem militants and religious heads to protest the burning of a mosque library crippled the Kashmir valley for the sixth day Friday, officials said.

All shops, hotels, offices and educational institutions remained shut, as police and paramilitary troops patrolled the streets to foil a planned march to the Hazratbal mosque by Moslems, an official spokesman said here.

The protest strike also paralysed normal life in some Moslem- dominated areas of Jammu, where Hindus are in the majority.

Moslem militants battling to secede Kashmir state have accused Indian security forces of setting fire to the library on February 21, and have formed voluntary groups to restore damaged copies of Islamic scriptures.

The Kashmir Government has denied the charge, saying the fire was sparked after guerrillas opened fire at security troops.

Authorities Thursday had clamped curfews on parts of Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital and the urban hub of the separatist campaign, and in other towns of the Moslem-majority valley.

The spokesman said Moslem militants repeatedly appealed Friday through loudhailers fitted on Srinagar mosques, urging people to march to the Hazratbal mosque, but there was no "honourable response."

Those who responded to the appeals and came out of their homes in Srinagar and elsewhere dispersed after security forces threatened to shoot, and in stray cases fired warning shots, the spokesman added.

At least two people were killed and eight injured when a bomb exploded in a crowded bus Thursday in the valley's Harnag Wanpur town, some 60 kilometers (36 miles) south of Srinagar, police said.

State transport officials, however placed the death toll at four, and said at least 20 others received shrapnel injuries.

No Kashmiri group has claimed responsibility for the blast.

Guerrillas fired at a police station in Kashmir's Anantnag town late Thursday and security forces returned the fire, without causing any injury, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

India and Pakistan dispute the ownership of Kashmir, and have gone to war twice over the border province. Different parts of the state are controlled by New Delhi and Islamabad.

Agreements Signed on Drug Trafficking, Terrorism

BK2802031492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] India and Britain have signed two agreements: one, on an extradition treaty and the second, on confiscation of terrorists and drug trafficking funds. The two agreements were reached at the end of the four-day official-level meeting in London yesterday. The two agreements demonstrate the importance which Britain and India attach to the fight against the evils of international terrorism and drug trafficking.

Iran

Velayati Views Azerbaijan-Armenia Mediation

NC2902071792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who went to Azerbaijan and Armenia for mediation talks on ending the war between the two republics, returned to Tehran last night. He described the talks as useful and expressed optimism on the future.

In an interview with correspondents upon his return, Velayati noted that Iran's efforts were useful, adding: I held talks with government officials and high-ranking parliamentary officials of both countries. On the whole, we enjoyed positive results. Pointing out that both republics want the hostilities to end, he said: As a neighboring country, Iran also attaches great importance to ending the conflict.

The foreign minister mentioned the need to exchange prisoners of war and the bodies of victims, adding that the two countries have agreed that Iran's Red Crescent, in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry, will carry this out.

Velayati added that the next round of talks may be collective, and will be held in one of the two countries' capitals. The foreign minister also said that because of their trust in Iran, Azerbaijan and Armenia agreed to Iran's proposal for a temporary cease-fire.

Further on Remarks

LD2902101992 Tehran IRNA in English 0806 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned home Friday night from a four-day visit to the Republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia and said his talks in Baku and Yerevan on ending the dispute over Karabakh were useful.

Speaking after arrival Velayati who initiated Iran's first mediation efforts to end the bloody conflict between the two republics over the disputed Karabakh, expressed optimism about the outlook of the talks. Velayati said in Baku and Yerevan he held talks with government authorities, the opposition parties and parliamentarians of the two countries. "In whole a proper conclusion was reached." [passage omitted]

Both sides agreed with a three-day ceasefire proposed by the Iranian delegation. This, he said is a sign of their mutual trust in the Islamic Republic. He added that there has been no report of ceasefire violation.

Commentary on 'Fostering of Ties'

LD2602100392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Station Commentary]

[Text] Iran's foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, has today embarked on a visit to Azerbaijan and Armenia, at the request of their officials. In his meetings with the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia, in Baku and Yerevan, respectively, he will have a close look at the two countries' dispute over the mountainous Karabakh region.

On the first leg of this visit, Dr. Velayati arrived in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, and was greeted by his Azerbaijani counterpart. Prior to his departure, speaking in an interview at Tehran's Mehrabad airport, Dr. Velayati, with regards to the goal of his visit, said: The trip to these two countries has taken place to examine the realities existing in the region without any clamour. That is the first step in Iran's mediation effort to resolve the Karabakh problem. He added: Iran has certain proposals to settle this conflict, but until the time both sides do not sit around the negotiating table, it will not be wise to make any mediation attempt.

Here, Dr. Velayati has referred to the fact that the problem of Karabakh has not only been continued over the past four years in the form of bloody clashes, but has also existed for many long years in the form of cultural and political differences in the region. Therefore, it cannot be expected that this issue will be finally resolved soon.

Despite this, most political observers believe that on account of Iran's political credibility in respect of these countries, which have proximity with the Iranian culture and civilization and historical and cultural spheres, the Iranian foreign minister has got the opportunity to present a realistic plan agreeable to both the sides, while relying on reciprocal faith and preserving Iran's neutral state.

Settlement of this problem, apart from checking further bloodshed, will provide an opportunity to both sides to rebuild their chaotic economies. At present, settlement of the problem of Karabakh is to the advantage of all the regional states and only such individuals are insisting, through their instigations on its continuation, that do not want to see the success of the people of Azerbaijan and Armenia in rebuilding their respective country.

Now, one has to wait for the result of Dr. Velayati's visit and also to examine the Iranian plan in settling the Karabakh problem. Moreover, Dr. Velayati's visits to Baku and Yerevan provide a fresh opportunity to further strengthen bilateral ties, especially when Tehran is endeavouring to promote its political, economic, and cultural relations with the Caucasian republics, in order to have closer ties with Azerbaijan and Armenia. The reason is that fostering of ties can be advantageous for both sides. The Republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia, through the channel of Iran, can have access to open seas. And also, due to the economic status of Iran, economic exchanges between the two countries can be considerably increased. In cultural terms, too, historical links provide a stable ground for cooperation in the scientific and arts spheres.

Velayati Receives Hizballah Leader Nasrallah

LD0103113892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, the secretary general of the Hizballah revolutionary movement of Lebanon—who arrived in Tehran accompanied by a number of members of the Central Council of that movement last night—met with Foreign Minister Velayati this morning.

At that meeting, Velayati expressed congratulations and condolences regarding the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, and said: We are sure that just as the blood of the martyrs of the Islamic revolution led to the growth of the sapling of the Islamic revolution, and its bearing fruit, the blood of that honorable martyr and his esteemed companions will lead to the strengthening and enhancement of the Islamic resistance in Lebanon.

Velayati praised the rapid election of Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah to the post of secretary general of the Hizballah revolutionary movement of Lebanon, and said: This shows the unity of the movement and the failure of the Zionist regime's efforts to destroy this revolutionary movement. The foreign minister of our country also stressed the continuation of fraternal relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Hizballah forces of Lebanon.

Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, the new secretary general of the Hizballah revolutionary movement of Lebanon, said: We thank the brothers and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their worthy sentiments. We carry the deep appreciation of the ulema and Muslims of Lebanon for our Iranian brothers. He continued: The martyrdom of 'Allamah Mujahid Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi is, from one point, a calamity. But, like other martyrs' blood, it carried blessings with it. It led to the strengthening of feeling against—and a greater understanding of—the Zionist enemy.

Minister Urges Further OPEC Production Cuts

LD2802193392 Tehran IRNA in English 1638 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), Feb. 28, IRNA—The latest OPEC plan to cut daily production by 1.2 million barrels will stem the oil price fall provided members states scrupulously adhere to the organisation's decision, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said here last night.

He told reporters that since the output reduction plan of the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will become effective from March onwards, the oil market would somewhat improve next month.

"However, OPEC should further reduce production in order to firm up the prices," he added.

According to Aqazadeh the next OPEC meeting will be held after the holy month of Ramadan to review the market situation, and he expected the oil market to regain stability "in view of the flexibility shown by 12 member states."

He said Iran is committed to the OPEC decisions, and will keep its production ceiling at the determined quota.

Turning to domestic issues, the oil minister said plans for increasing the capacity of the Abadan refinery as well as phase-2 of the Arak refinery, have been presented to the budget and planning organization for the final decision.

On the reconstruction of the U.S.-damaged Nasr and Salman oil rigs in the Persian Gulf, he said for the moment Nasr Platform produces 30,000 barrels per day [BPD], which will rise to 86,000 BPD next calendar year (starting March 21).

Oil production at the Salman platform is expected to reach 160,000 BPD next summer, he added.

Aqazadeh is accompanying President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his tour of the southern province of Khuzestan and the Persian Gulf islands.

Official Defends Need for Nuclear Power Plants

LD2602164592 Tehran IRNA in English 1526 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Vienna, Feb. 26, IRNA—Iran needs to build nuclear power plants solely for the purpose of generating electricity of which there is a chronic shortage in the country.

The Vice President of the Islamic Republic Reza Amrollahi who also heads Iran's Atomic Energy Organization [IAEO] made the remarks the a press conference Wednesday at the Vienna International Centre.

Amrollahi pointed out that power cuts of 2-3 hours was a regular feature of life in Iran and that nuclear electricity plants could provide about 10-20 percent of its energy needs.

"We would like to complete the Bushehr project as soon as possible", said Amrollahi. Work on the project, the plan for which was initiated about 16 years ago, had reached the stage when 80 and 65-70 percent of the first and second units respectively had been completed. The Germans, who were the contractors should finish the Bushehr plant, which has cost Iran 4 billion U.S. dollars, said Amrollahi.

In a statement Amrollahi said that the Bushehr plant is an outstanding example of the peaceful application of nuclear energy. It has been designed and shall be operated solely for generating electrical power.

The IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] team that visited Iran early this month were much impressed by the plant's safety aspects and the high construction standard. They were equally impressed by the storage facilities and maintenance of plant components and systems.

"...Technically and financially we do not foresee any problems to complete this plant. The only obstacles are political and proliferation considerations which we hope the recent IAEA mission has helped alleviate", Amrollahi said.

He noted with regret the adverse publicity directed at Iran's nuclear activities. In order to prove to the international community that such publicity was without foundation the agency was invited to send a team "to visit wherever and whatever they wished and talk to anyone they required".

The Director General of IAEA Hans Blix acknowledged at the governing board meeting Monday that "great openness was shown and the team found the activities in all these sites to be consistent with the peaceful applications of nuclear energy".

Responding to a question about the sale of a reactor by India, Amrollahi said that India had also offered it for sale to other countries. "However, Iran had not a made decision about it".

Asked about an offer by Argentina, Amrollahi said that "so far we have had no official communication from them. We shall, of course, decide in the future".

The permanent representative of Iran to the IAEA Mohammad Sadeq Ayatollahi told journalists that in terms of the safeguards agreement with the agency routine inspections of materials and installations in Iran took place every year.

The recent agency mission, he said was different. "We invited them to go anywhere they wanted. They also visited the recreation centre near Mo'allem Kalayeh to see for themselves because mischievous media publicity had described it as an "enrichment centre", added Ayatollahi.

The Vice-President and the President of the IAEO Amrollahi is attending the current session of IAEA's governing board of which Iran is a member.

Denies Recruiting CIS Experts

AU2702121692 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 27 Feb 92 p 3

["PLO" report: "Iran Again Denies Possession of Nuclear Weapons"]

[Text] Vienna—Bitterly complaining about an international media campaign against his country, on Wednesday [26 February] Iranian Vice President Reza Amrollahi again denied that Iran is building or possesses any nuclear weapons.

On the fringes of the meeting of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] Governors Council in Vienna, Amrollahi said that the Iranian nuclear program serves exclusively civilian purposes. Tehran is also not trying to recruit nuclear experts form the former USSR. Since these scientists need an exit permit from their country, it is impossible to recruit them. Amrollahi asked, "Does anybody know whether permits have been issued to experts?"

Iran is working intensively to finish the two 1,300-megawatt reactors of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, in which more than 40 billion schillings have been invested. His country is urging the German Siemens AG to finish the Bushehr nuclear power plant quickly. Construction of the facility was started in the 1970's, but was interrupted after the Islamic revolution in 1979.

At the beginning of February, during a visit to nuclear research facilities in Iran at the invitation of the Iranian nuclear authority, IAEA experts did not find any indication that the country is working on nuclear weapons. However, this applies only to the facilities they visited and to the specific times of the visit.

Supreme National Security Council Meets 29 Feb

LD2902222892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council held a session on Saturday evening. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani chaired the meeting, which was attended by council members, political advisers, and the country's high-ranking military commanders.

Yazdi Sees Effort To 'Block Islam's Progress'

NC2902080192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1120 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi at Tehran University 28 February—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brother and sister Muslims all over the world: Recent events in Islamic countries in Asia and Africa, and the occupying Zionist regime's attacks against southern Lebanon and continuing government-ordered assassinations, have proven that the enemies of Islam will not refrain from committing any crime to block Islam's progress worldwide every day. They do not comply with international law, rules, or so-called human rights resolutions.

You have seen how America has officially declared that Israel's attack against southern Lebanon cannot be considered an attack against a sovereign state. Is Lebanon not a sovereign state? Can an attack against a country be justified by the claim that this country has a group of opponents? Many opposition figures live in Europe and the United States, and some of them have even established active organizations. Could countries attack them under the pretense of striking at the opposition? Wouldn't the slightest move of that sort be considered a declaration of war? What is the justification for the brutal assassination of Hojjat-ol-Eslam al-Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, secretary general of Lebanon's Hizballah, and the world organization's silence over it? Why did they target the wife and child of this honorable cleric? Could such measures have been taken without America's approval? Isn't the primary objective of arrogance and Zionism to stand in the face of Islam?

The enemy imagines by such action it will [word indistinct] the march for Islam in the world and weaken the resistance of Hizballah and the jihad of Palestinian Muslims. The enemy does not know that martyrdom, in the philosophy of Islamic jihad, awakens the spirit of jihad and that the martyr's blood gives jihad more vitality and activity. The history of the mujahidin bespeaks this fact. We are certain that these acts by the enemy will themselves rekindle the spirit of Islamic resistance, particularly in Lebanon and Palestine. Let the presidents of arrogant and tyrannical governments know that the old methods of violence and terrorism have counterreactions in today's world. World War I and II proved that domination cannot be attained by force or suppression. The masses, their demands, their sanctities, and beliefs must be respected and problems must be solved reasonably. We are also certain that Lebanon's Hizballah and the Palestinian mujahidin will liberate the occupied territories by stepping up and strengthening the resistance. Muslims all over the world, with their [word indistinct], prudence, and understanding of today's world, will perform their political and social duties well, hoping for the day when the divine promise of a world dominated by the genuine religion will be fulfilled. May God forgive you and me. May God's peace be with you. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To thee have we granted the fount of abundance. Therefore to thy Lord turn in prayer and sacrifice. For he who hateth thee, he will be cut off from future hope. [Koranic verse] May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Views Central Asian Ties

LD2802174392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi at Tehran University 28 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] All discussions and guidelines are important and valuable in their own right, but what always bothered me, personally, as a student at the seminary—and whenever there was an opportunity, I spoke about it with those that I should have spoken to—was what his eminence required from the seminary with all frankness and seriousness. That is, the seminary must prepare itself through precise and systematic planning to respond to the needs of the Islamic community of today's world. Pay attention! For 1,400 years, work has been done on Islam's resources; on its lore; and on its religious laws, principles, interpretation, ethics, and philosophy. They have really worked. All the great scholars at great Shiite seminaries—from Najaf and Qom and other seminaries—that were in Iran or other cities [as heard], and still are, have toiled. What is in our hands today is the fruit of the toils of those great scholars of the past.

But the new point is this: We had little or no practical experience for government issues. As I speak to you, dozens of medical problems; dozens of cultural and military problems; and in my own work environment, dozens of judicial problems exist. There are generalities about them, resources for them, and a certain amount of work has been done. However, when we look for an answer with respect to today's status, conditions of time and place, and government characteristics, we are told: It has to be studied. When we first assumed power in the judiciary sector, I told the great personalities of Qom that they must help us. They declared their readiness. After a while a second issue came up. It can not be found in the laws, it is not in the fatwas—since the law tells us

to refer to fatwas if there is no law, and act upon that. Next comes the sources of religious law—the law says to refer to sources of religious law in such a case.

There was no time for us to do that ourselves, so we delegated the matter to those same scholars who pledged their cooperation. And they were to give an answer very quickly. One week, two weeks. Eventually, I asked them what they were going to do for us. They said: We thought the answer would be simple, but when we started the task, we found that it needed work and effort. We must look up references and there is not enough opportunity. In short, we cannot make it. I told them that I dare not presume, but our needs take precedence over your debates and lessons.

Responding to the needs of the Islamic community in today's world does not mean that, God forbid, any change will come about in Islamic laws. Halal will not become haram. I take refuge in God. No authority has such a right. It means that when known issues come up—at least in my own work environment, some of which I cannot raise here—only religious law must answer. Nothing else can answer or has any right to answer. When we referred elsewhere, we found that generalities existed but there was no answer.

The exalted leadership has made it religiously incumbent upon the seminary to plan to introduce specialization, and find a path so that it can respond. As a former seminary student, I recall the famous reaction: The seminaries must be independent, must be affiliated to nothing, affiliation is a threat to seminaries. His eminence the Imam [Khomeyni], may God be satisfied with him, was told at the beginning of the revolution that since—thank God—leadership and absolute rule was in his hands and he was—and is—the head of the seminary, let this general system apply to the seminary as well. He graciously said: No, the seminary must be free, and its relationship with the people must be maintained as before, and so on. Fortunately.

In the statements of the exalted leadership, it was stressed that planning for the seminary must ensure that it maintains independence, and prevent the threat of it becoming affiliated to any power. It can thus respond to the needs of today's Islamic community. Naturally, this requires cooperation. [crowd chants "God is great, Khamene'i is the leader, death to the opponents of the guardianship of the Jurisconsult, death to America, Israel"] [passage omitted]

Some NATO officials have made remarks, which surprise us, about what kind of place they are living in and what they are thinking. They say the growth of Islamic movements in Central Asia is not in the interests of the West. Or they say that this ideological wave should be dealt with militarily. Well, this is an organization like NATO, or a person like U.S. Secretary of State Baker. I am really surprised at the sort of place they live in, and at their mentality. After Baker's trip to this region, he formally concluded: We deal with those republics with a view to confronting the revival of Islam. They have no other value for us.

If one looks that closely, one can say that Americans have no scruples. First, one can understand the basis of their foreign policy: It is to humiliate other nations. Is there any humiliation worse than that? What can be more humiliating for them than for America to look on those republics with a view to confronting the revival of Islam, and saying they have no other value. That means other nations should be subservient to the Americans, and that only the Americans have contact with other nations on the basis of their own interests, and confront anything that is contrary to their interests—for example, religion.

One cannot talk to Mr. Baker from the legal point of view. But let me say this to those who can understand the law: At least accept the articles or the declaration on human rights. You yourselves have clarified in that declaration that religion is free and that the people can choose religion freely. If the people of the neighboring, recently independent republics are leaning toward Islam, let me tell you that this is nothing new. Islam was with them in the past. For about 70 years, the arrogant power tried to uproot Islam and failed. Now the Muslims have come and expressed their interest in Islam. What right do you have to confront this wave? What is it to you? The people want to be Muslims! What is it to you if they want to revive Islam? To justify your words you say: The Islamic Republic of Iran has upgraded its relations [with the Central Asian republics]. It is natural that we will increase our contacts—we must do this. This is one of the principles of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, based on mutual respect and international law between states, and based on the principle of support for Muslims whereever they are. It is natural that we will have contacts with the Muslims right next to us.

If a summit is held here with great success, and countries of the Caspian Sea basin achieve success in the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO], what is it to you? Why do you get upset? If the Islamic Republic of Iran dispatches its foreign minister to prevent a war in the region, even temporarily, why do you express your displeasure? These are humanitarian tasks. Anyway, what is it to you?

Worse than all this is that phrase of theirs: This wave of thought must be confronted militarily. One wonders where these people are living! Did history not show you? You cannot confront religion with the sword and the gun! [Crowd chants "God is great, death to Israel, death to America"] [passage omitted]

The power of the sword and of the Iron Curtain failed after 74 years. How can you say: We must use military force to confront this wave of thought. [passage omitted]

There are a number of judicial debates which are of importance, but since our time is short, I promise to

elaborate on them in future, I hope—especially concerning one of the organizations which has its center in one of the European countries. Every day, it publishes something and distributes it throughout the world. Of necessity, it sends this to Iran as well.

We know about it; I am personally familiar with the activities of that center, since at the time I was on the [Majlis] Judicial Committee. It has a tendency always to repeat certain points. I want to refer to a case concerning a prisoner who was released a long time ago, and who now lives in a free and open environment. And now this organization has written a report claiming that they [as heard] are in prison, and asking why we do not do somethig about them. It refers to prisoners who have no specific names, references, or records; those who do not exist here. Yet it still says this.

It continues to ask us why our courts are not open to the public. Yet, all our courts are open to the public. I have repeatedly announced that point from this platform. It is an international platform; it is not limited to our country alone. I have said repeatedly that according to our constitutional law, all our courts are open. When we say it is open, it means that the president of the court cannot prevent anybody from attending the hearing when the court is in session, if they wish. All our courts have that position.

It has said something about the Council of Guardians, which I have to explain despite the shortage of time. It says that the Council of Guardians has rejected the Majlis decree concerning the right to be represented by a lawyer. No. The Council of Guardians has not rejected it; on the contrary, it has enlarged it. [passage omitted]

Now that this organization has so little information and its establishment is so weak, why does it publish remarks which are not thoroughly researched? Why do you imagine you can defame and slander others? Is it because you can publish a couple of reports around the world?

I want to address that organization concerning the judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran. At least you can read the international covennant on civil and political rights which the Islamic Republic of Iran drafted and submitted to the United Nations. I referred to it recently from this platform. At least you could read that covenant before you made those remarks.

It is not right to publish remarks worldwide against the regime on behalf of the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq], the opposition groups, and the enemies. That is not a correct and humane act.

Do you think you can defame this country and its regime? No. Our people know better; so do those people in the world who are fair-minded. They can understand that you have an axe to grind.